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THORS,

JENKS, VEN, AND PALMER,

AND FROM THE

NEW MANUAL OF PRIVATE DEVOTIONS.

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*" Pray one for another, that ye may be healed.  
The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous  
man availeth much."*—JAMES V. 16.

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GREENFIELD, MASS.

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## PREFACE.

THE utility of books of this description in a Christian country, can be questioned by none. There is not a Christian Father of a Family, who is not ready to acknowledge his obligations to the author, by whom he is furnished with the means of guiding the devotions of his household, and of teaching those, whose spiritual as well as temporal interests, are committed to his care, how, suitably, to address themselves to the Father of their spirits, the Preserver of their lives, the Bestower of their blessings, and the Redeemer of their souls. There is scarcely an individual in any condition of human life, who may not be indebted to the pious labors of compilers of works like this, for a proper channel, through which to convey the fervors of gratitude to the Divine Author of every good and perfect gift; the cries of penitence for pardon to the Father of Mercies; or the supplications of suffering and necessity, to him, to whom in the time of need "all flesh should come."—Among the most sincerely religious, there are numbers who know not of themselves, how to address their petitions or their thanksgivings to God. To such, a book like this can need no recommendation. Among the most thoughtless, and the most inattentive, habitually, to the ways and will of heaven, there are none who may not sometimes have the disposition to pray awak-

ened in them, by such dispensations of Providence, as prove the utter insufficiency of the world or man, for the support or consolation of their spirits. "*But how can they, unless some man should guide them?*" Ignorant in what manner to present themselves before their Maker, and discouraged through the fear of uttering that which is unworthy of his majesty, they often, it is to be apprehended, suffer the devout emotion which had been excited to subside, and pass away from their bosoms, which might have ascended an acceptable incense to his throne. To the intent, then, that all those circumstances which are suited to direct the thoughts to God, may be improved to the effectual establishment of the hearts of men in those habits of devotion which are the soul and strength of practical holiness and virtue, how desirable is it, that forms of prayer, suited to them, should be furnished to all, at once as an encouragement, and an help and guide to religious duty!

"The volume here presented to the public, contains forms suited to different conditions in which human beings may be placed, and in a style well adapted to the simplicity of sincere and genuine piety."



## FAMILY PRAYERS.

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### *Morning Prayer for the Lord's Day.*

O LORD, the great Almighty God, thou art the giver of life and strength, and of all grace and goodness ; without whom we can do nothing ; and through whose gracious assistance it is, that we are enabled to do all things belonging to thy service and our duty : We humbly pray, that thou wilt be graciously present with us, and powerfully assist us this day, to direct and quicken us in all the ways and duties of thy holy service. O forgive our iniquities, that separate between thee and our souls ; and remember not the sins against us, which may justly provoke thee to hide thy face from us. But according to thy mercy, remember thou us, O Lord, and accept us, and our imperfect services, at the hands, and for the sake of Jesus Christ.

O leave us not to the dulness and hardness, the vanity and deceitfulness of our own depraved hearts : but shew the power of thy heavenly grace, in working mightily upon these hearts of ours : to bring and keep them in such a holy frame, that we may be fitter to attend upon thee, and perform more faithful and acceptable ser-

vice to thee, and enjoy more of that heavenly communion with thee, which thou hast made us capable of; and which our souls will be forever restless without. O let us not serve thee in formality and hypocrisy, making any duties of course the cover of a vain licentious life: But let our hearts and souls, and all that is within us, be taken up in a reverend, faithful and affectionate attendance upon thee. Nor let us serve thee of constraint, only because we must; but with all readiness and gladness, and love and delight to be so engaged: Making thy pleasure to be ours, and the Sabbath and service of our Lord, the joy and solace of our souls. O help us so to sanctify thy day, that thy day may be a means to promote the sanctification of our souls. Let us bestow ourselves in exercises benefiting the holy season; and not profane it to any vain and vicious purposes. But on the Lord's day may we abound in the work of the Lord: and not do our own works, nor find our own pleasure, nor speak our own words, in the day which thou hast hallowed for thyself: But rest from all our sinful ways, as well as from our common labors; and so delight ourselves in the Lord, that thou mayest give us the desires of our hearts.

And bless to us thy word, O gracious Father, and all the means of grace, which through thy favor we do enjoy, that we may not use the same in vain, not to our hurt: but for the informing of our minds, the reforming of our lives, and the saving of our souls; still growing in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus

Christ; till we attain to be such as thy holy word requires, in all holy conversation and godliness.

Great peace have they that love thy law, and nothing shall offend them. O Lord, increase our love to thy word, which the angels desire to look into; and make our souls pliable and submissive, to be turned and ruled by it, till we become in all things agreeable to it.

Bless us, our father, and command a blessing upon all our pious designs and performances this day: and bless thy servants whom thou hast appointed to break the bread of life to our souls, that they may speak thy word as they ought to speak: and give to every one their portion in due season. And that thy word, which they deliver, may be to our conviction, edification and comfort, and the savor of life to our souls. O thou that hast the key of David, and openest and no man shuttest, thou that speakest to the heart, and givest the increase, open our understandings to receive thy truth, both in the light, and in the love of it. And set it home so powerfully upon our hearts, and root it so deep in our souls, that the fruits may be seen in our lives: We being not forgetful hearers but faithful doers of thy word.

And grant, O God, that our services this day may be such, as may tend to our advantage and rejoicing, in the great day of thy appearing and glory: That we may so hallow these Sabbaths here upon earth, that hereafter we may be admitted to the joyful celebration of the eternal Sabbatism in thy kingdom of heaven: there,

with all the church triumphant, to magnify thy glorious name, and to enjoy thy love, and sing thy praise for ever. And for the addition of this Sabbath to all the rest, for the benefit of thy word, and the ordinances of thy worship, and all the means of grace, and hopes of thy eternal glory, to thee, the God of all grace, be the praise, and honor, and glory rendered by us, and by all thine, from this time forth, and for ever. AMEN.

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*Another Morning Prayer for the Lord's Day.*

WE praise and worship thee, O Lord, the Creator of heaven and earth ; for thou speakest the word, and all things were made ; thou commandest, and they were created !

We admire and adore thy infinite wisdom and power in the things thou hast made, and we acknowledge our absolute dependence upon thee, and thy great goodness and bounty to us and all the world.

Blessed be thou, who didst so love the world, that thou gavest thine only begotten Son to redeem it, who was delivered for our offences, and raised again (as on this day) to justify and save all such as fear and obey thee.

We give thanks to thee, O Lord, for all thy mercies to our souls and bodies, for appointing one day in seven for thy more peculiar worship and service. All possible praise and thanks be given to God, who created us ; to Jesus Christ,

who redeemed us, and to the Holy Ghost, who sanctifieth us.

Grant, O Lord, that by a wise and religious use of the means of grace, we may grow up to a state of holiness and righteousness, and that our souls may be prepared for those glorious and delightful praises, which will be part of the happiness and employment of thy saints to all eternity in heaven.

O Lord, we confess that we have offended thee by the negligent performance of our holy duties, by our abuse of thy grace, and mispending this thy holy day, and by many sins committed in the course of our lives. But let not this provoke thee to withdraw the assistance of thy Holy Spirit from us, and to leave us to the vanity and folly of our own minds. We humbly beseech thee, O most merciful Father, to forgive us all our past offences. Do thou mercifully hear our prayers, and let our cry come unto thee.

Let our whole behavior on this day be such that there may be nothing thought, said, or done by us, but what may best serve to promote the end for which thou hast instituted it; and, O God, make every one of us diligent, not only to save our own souls, but, as much as in us lies, the souls of others too.

Bless thy universal church: Be thou graciously present in all Christian assemblies throughout the world, and hear the prayers they shall this day put up, and make thy word effectual to the pulling down the kingdom of Satan, and to the building up of the church of Christ in sound faith and real godliness. May thy word come with

power into every conscience, and have a due and saving effect upon the minds of all that hear it.

Bestow a plentiful portion of thy good Spirit upon all that by sickness, imprisonment, or any other lawful impediment, are kept from partaking of the means of grace that we enjoy ; and be pleased mercifully to relieve and succor them in all their straits and difficulties. Those that are troubled in mind, do thou direct to proper means to obtain comfort and satisfaction. Give all that have no sense of thy Majesty, and live as it were without God in the world, awakening convictions of the dangers they are in, and the miseries they are exposed to, that they may escape them.

Pardon our sins and imperfections, and relieve all our wants, for the sake of Jesus Christ ; for whom we thank thee ; to whom, with thee and the blessed Spirit, be ascribed all honor, glory, power, thanksgiving and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.



### *Another Morning Prayer for the Lord's Day.*

ALL praise be given unto thee, O God, our heavenly Father, for this holy day, in which we imitate the company in heaven, whilst we assemble in thy courts on earth.

Instead of rejecting us for our pride, and wilful ignorance, and forgetfulness of thee, thou hast set apart thy day to teach us the knowledge of thy name, and of our own condition. Thou

hast commanded us to make public confession of our sins, and thy perfect hatred of them ; of our manifold disobedience, and thy forbearance ; of our depravity and perpetual need of thy grace. Thou hast commanded us thus to abase ourselves before thee, lest a proud, self-sufficient spirit should destroy us. Thou hast commanded us to make intercession for all men, that our hearts may be enlarged in love towards them, and our hands ready to minister to their necessities. 'Thou hast sent thy word unto us for reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness, to make us wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus. And thou hast required us to give thee thanks in the great congregation, in order that our hearts may be filled with gratitude to thee for all thy benefits. O how amiable on these accounts, Lord God of hosts, are thy houses in our land ! We especially adore thy goodness, in passing over the provocations and insults we have so often repeated, by rushing into thy house, in pride, hypocrisy, and contempt of thy salvation. Instead of cutting us off in this most dreadful state, thou hast been pleased to lay it all open to our view. Therefore we now, on our knees, implore of thee every disposition of heart which can make us acceptable worshippers. O our God, send forth light and truth, forcibly to impress us with the great importance of the work we have to do. Shield us from all distractions. Whilst we confess our sins, fill us with deep self-abasement and godly sorrow. Give us to ask in full assurance of receiving the things we need, pardon,



righteousness, and strength, from thy love in Jesus Christ. Accompany thy oracles, and the preaching of thy servants with the power of the Holy Ghost, that we may be more wise, and more diligent to follow the examples set before us : that thy judgments and threatenings against transgressors may deter us from walking after the flesh, and the fashion of this world. O that, by hearing thy gospel, we may clearly perceive, and gladly embrace the great salvation it proclaims, and be careful to observe and do whatsoever our Lord commands. And when we offer up our prayers for all estates and conditions of men, give us to feel bowels of mercies, and to beg for their support, deliverance, and salvation, as for our own.

Thou knowest, Lord, our sad condition ; that when we would do good, as thy holy law requires, evil is present with us. We would wait upon thee without a wandering thought ; but our weakness and depravity, alas ! are manifest, after all our endeavors to be wholly taken up in thy service. Arise, O God, and save us from those idle thoughts, which else will hinder our prayers ; and though we can have nothing to rejoice in what we do, may we rejoice in thy goodness and tender mercies, in the redemption of our souls by the blood of Jesus, and in thy exceeding great and precious promises.

Thou, Lord, hast appointed pastors and teachers, whose lips should retain knowledge, and the people are to be instructed in thy law from their mouths. We pray thee to give unto them all the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the



knowledge of Christ, that they may be taught how to lay, like able builders, the true foundation; and, by their preaching, may knowledge be increased, and sinners turned from their evil ways. By their preaching, may thy children be comforted and established, the beauty of holiness and the sinfulness of sin be effectually set forth; that after due improvement of thy day, house, and word, we may for ever rejoice in the rest which remaineth for all the people of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. AMEN.



### *Evening Prayer for the Lord's Day.*

ETERNALLY blessed, and infinitely glorious Lord God, who keepest mercy for thousands, and forgivest the iniquities of all truly penitent and returning sinners; we present ourselves this evening before thee, acknowledging our manifold sins, whereby we have exposed ourselves to thy just displeasure.

We have been unmindful both of our duty and interest; have broken thy holy law, dishonored thy holy religion, and miserably neglected the great salvation thy blessed Son purchased and procured for mankind.

We have come without due preparation to thy solemn worship; and been heedless and inattentive in hearing thy word. O how cold have we been in thy praises; how earthly, dull, and distracted, in our prayers!

How seldom have we been seriously exercis-

ed in holy meditation ! How seldom have we recollected thy multiplied mercies to us, so as to become sensible of the many obligations we are under to thee for them ; or so thought on our ways, as to turn our feet to thy testimonies !

But, O Lord, we humbly pray thee, for Jesus Christ's sake, to forgive us all our past offences. Direct and guide us in the ways of truth and holiness : And that we may always fear thee our God, help us to set thee always before us ; and so to observe and consider thy all-seeing eye, that we may dread to offend thee.

Reform whatever thou seest amiss in the temper and disposition of our minds ; and be thou graciously pleased to conduct us safe through all the temptations and troubles of this world. To this end, enable us strictly to follow the example of Jesus Christ, and manfully to fight under his banner, against the world, the flesh, and the devil ; vigorously opposing, and valiantly conquering all the enemies of our souls. Help us, in conformity to his death, to die daily unto sin, and in conformity to his resurrection, to rise to a life of holiness and obedience, that so we may receive the prize of a glorious and incorruptible inheritance.

O Lord, we render unto thee our most humble and thankful acknowledgments, for thy many and undeserved mercies. It was thy hand that formed us. It was thou that gavest us life and breath, and being. Our food and raiment, our health and strength, our ease and liberty, the use of our limbs, and the exercise of our reason and understanding, are all derived from

thee. We therefore render unto thee, O thou Bountiful Giver of all good, our praises and thanksgiving, for thy temporal mercies to us, of which we are utterly unworthy.

But, above all, O Lord, we praise thee for thy spiritual mercies ; for blessing us in heavenly things in Christ Jesus, which tend to the renewing us after thy likeness in this life, and to the sanctifying and preparing us for that which is to come.

For ever blessed be thy name, that our compassionate Redeemer took upon him our human flesh. We praise thee for his holy doctrine and exemplary life ; that he gave himself to death, to purchase our redemption ; that he completed that great work by his glorious resurrection. We bless thee that he hath begotten us again to the lively hope of an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, that fadeth not away, which is reserved in heaven for all who, by patient continuance in well-doing, seek for glory, and honor, and immortality. We praise thee for his glorious ascension into heaven, there to intercede in thy presence for us ; for sending the Holy Ghost to comfort and assist us ; for appointing a succession of men to preach and propagate the knowledge and practice of his heavenly doctrine, and to administer the holy sacrament, the seal of thy covenant.

We thank thee, O heavenly Father, for all the precious promises in the gospel of thy Son, and that thou hast made our duty so necessary to our happiness. O ! that we may all so effectually apply our minds to the consideration of

thy manifold mercies, that they may work in our souls all those divine virtues, dispositions, and affections, which they are designed by thee to produce in us.

Extend thy mercy, O God, to the whole world, that thy name may be great among the Gentiles, from the rising of the sun, unto the going down of the same.

Bless thy universal church. Put an end to all division, strife, and contention; purify and cleanse it from profaneness and ungodliness, from superstition and false doctrine; and make it the joy of the whole earth.

Be gracious to this sinful nation to which we belong; forgive our many and great sins; and particularly, we pray thee, pardon our abuse of time set apart for thy more immediate worship; our unthankfulness for the light of thy gospel, and walking contrary to its precepts. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins; and grant that by unity, and charity, and holiness of life, we may glorify thy great name, and adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

Continue the light of thy gospel among us: Defeat and overthrow the designs of evil men, that would pervert the truth of it.

Be thou pleased to further with thy blessing, all those good designs that are for the advancement of true religion and virtue. Let no artifices of the devil, or wicked men, render them ineffectual.

Let all magistrates, and other inferior officers, maintain and defend true religion, encouraging

virtue and goodness, and punishing 'and suppressing all wickedness and vice ; and let all men follow after peace and holiness, without which no man shall see thee.

O thou that art the Father of Mercies, relieve all that are in affliction, of any kind whatsoever ; and grant that all may have cause to say, It is good for them that they have been in trouble.

Be gracious and favorable to us that are here before thee ; forgive us all our sins, and remember not the iniquities of our holy things. Defend and protect us this night from all those dangers and mischiefs that may justly overtake us ; refresh our frail bodies with quiet and moderate rest, and help us, in the renewed strength thereof, vigorously to serve thee in the faithful discharge of the duties of the following day. And in that and all other days, enable us to live to thy honor and glory ; that in the end of them we may live with thee, through our Lord Jesus Christ ; in whose prevailing name and words we sum up all our wants,—

*Our Father, &c.*

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### *Another Evening Prayer for the Lord's Day.*

THOU, O Lord our God, art great, wonderful, and holy. Thou art exalted far above all blessings and praise which men or angels can offer ; yet thou hast taught us, that whoever offereth thee thanks, he honoreth thee. Much cause

have we now to praise thy name for thine ordinances, which we have this day observed. Pardon the iniquity of our holy things, and cleanse us from the defilement cleaving to our best services. Accept our prayers and praises, for the sake and through the intercession of our great and merciful High-Priest. For his sake, O heavenly Father, fulfil all the requests we have made this day before thee, that the benefit we gain in calling upon thy name together may be manifest in our deportment, and felt in our hearts. Thus may we love and serve thee, waiting in joyful hope for that hour when we shall see thee face to face, and know even as we are known.

To thy mercy we recommend all our relations, and all our friends. Enlighten their minds, that they may not profane thy holy day; give them grace to worship thee in spirit and in truth, with the great congregation; to spend their time with joy in retirement, and secret prayer, and meditation upon the multitude of mercies they have received from thy hand.

Visit, O Lord, the nations yet sitting in darkness and the shadow of death. May the day spring from on high shine upon them, to guide their feet into the way of peace. O that the fullness of the Gentiles may come into Christ, and all Israel be saved! O that the mountain of the Lord's house may be established upon the top of the mountains, and exalted above the hills, and the earth be filled with the glory of the Lord!

We beseech thee, O Lord, to put an end to all

idolatry and superstition in the nations called after thy name. Cause the power of godliness to flourish in all thy churches. Utterly destroy formality and hypocrisy amongst the professors of thy holy faith, that there be no offence given to scoffers, or that they should have any cause to say, what advantage does the gospel of Christ impart.

Take us this night, O our God, under the shadow of thy wing. When we awake, may we think of thee : and if our life is spared to the return of day, may we walk in the light of thy countenance, and in all thy commandments blameless. And when our departure is at hand, may we enjoy a sweet foretaste of heavenly bliss, and know, that when we are removed from waiting upon thee in the courts of thy house below, we shall, with angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, for ever laud and magnify thy name, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to whom be ascribed, as is most due, glory and dominion for ever and ever. AMEN.



*Another Evening Prayer for the Lord's Day.*

MOST holy and glorious God ; who is like unto Thee ? Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, and coverest thyself with light as with a garment. Thou only hast immortality, and dwellest in light that no man can approach unto. Yet thou art a God that hearest prayer, and art ready to forgive, yea plenteous in mercy unto all that call upon thee. Lord, quicken us,



this evening of thy day, that we may call upon thy name, and graciously attend unto the voice of our supplications.

We acknowledge that we have forfeited thy favour, and deserved thy wrath. We have followed the vain imaginations of our carnal minds and rejected thy holy laws. We have left those things undone which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

We have sinned presumptuously, against the clearest light, and the strongest love. Thou hast graciously allowed us time to work out our salvation, but alas ! we have lavished much of it away in pleasure and vanity. Thou hast given us thine holy sabbaths, and permitted us to attend the ordinances of thine house : But too much of our sacred time has been mispent. We have profaned thy day ; we have been backward to the duties of thy worship, and have been very dead and formal in our solemn performances. Instead of worshipping thee in spirit and in truth, O how often have we dealt hypocritically with God, and taken thy name in vain !

Our own consciences witness against us, and out of our own mouths thou mightest justly condemn us. But there is forgiveness with thee that thou mayest be feared. Blessed be thy name that thou hast provided a way for our pardon and reconciliation in Jesus Christ. For his sake we pray that thou wouldst forgive all our past sins, and our manifold shortcomings ; particularly those we have been guilty of this day. Lord wash away our sins in the blood



of Christ. We fly to his cross as our security, and to his wounds as our refuge ; renouncing all confidence in any thing besides him, who is the Lord our righteousness.

And Lord engage us not only to accept of him as our high-priest, to atone for us, but also as our king to reign in and rule over us, all the days of our lives. Lord possess the throne of our hearts by thy Spirit ; subdue all our lusts, that they may rule over us no more, and make us willingly submit to thy golden sceptre. Do thou so incline our wills, and animate our souls, that we may never count thy commandments grievous, but may esteem it our highest pleasure and dignity, as well as our greatest duty, to serve and obey thee. Convince us of the evil and filthiness of sin, that we may loathe and shun it as deadly poison. Cherish and preserve any convictions of this sort which thou hast this day wrought in us by thy word. Suffer us not, like the man that beholdeth his natural face in a glass, to go away and forget what manner of persons we saw ourselves to be ; but help us so to think of what we saw amiss in ourselves, that we may be humbled for it, and be made restless till we apply to the fountain of Christ's blood for washing away its guilt. And, Lord, we pray also that thou wouldst make us doers of thy word and not hearers only, deceiving our own souls. Let thy word be a light to our feet, and a lamp to our path, that our conversation may be as becometh the gospel, and our light may so shine before men, that others seeing our good works may glorify thee our heavenly Father.

Lord save us from resting in a good name ; for what will it profit us if we have a name to live but are really dead ? Save us from trusting to an outward form ; for what will it avail us to have a form of godliness while we deny the power thereof ? Lord renew us in the spirit of our minds. May we be thy workmanship, created anew in Christ Jesus unto good works. Produce and cherish in us a true faith, a fervent love, and a lively hope. And O grant that the love of Christ may be so shed abroad in our hearts as to burn up the love of sin and of the world, and constrain us to live not unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Cause the saving knowledge of Christ to cover the earth, and let his name be great from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof. Convince the Jews that Shiloh is come, and that Jesus whom they crucified is the true Messiah. Lord appear on the behalf of thy oppressed churches. Never let the gates of hell prevail against thy Zion. Let the time to favor her come. Peace be within her walls, and prosperity within her palaces, and let them prosper that love her. Lord bless these united lands. Make our rulers public blessings, both in our civil and sacred concerns. Frustrate the designs of those who are enemies to the protestant religion. Countenance the ministers of thy word, and water the seed they sow with the dews of heaven, that they may bring a large harvest to Christ. Let not the word spoken this day be like good seed devoured by the fowls of the air, or rotting beneath the clods, but cause it to spring up and yield great increase.

Be pleased, O Lord, graciously to visit those who by sickness are deprived of public ordinances. Sanctify their afflictions and make up their loss, prepare us for sickness and trouble, and give us cause to say that it is in faithfulness that we are at any time afflicted.

Bless all the members of this family. Let this be one of the tabernacles of the righteous, in which the voice of rejoicing and salvation is heard. Enable us all faithfully to discharge the duties of our several stations ; make us blessings to each other, and to all around us.\* Accept our daily sacrifices of prayer and praise, and let us all at last be admitted to celebrate an eternal sabbath with thee above ; for the sake and merit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who with thee and the Holy Spirit is over all, God blessed for evermore. AMEN.

\* *Where there are children, the petitions for them may be introduced here.*



*The Lord's Prayer paraphrased by Dr. Doddridge. Fam. Expos. Vol. I.*

*OUR Father, who art seated on a throne of glory in the highest heaven : while we bow down before thine awful presence with the humblest reverence, we would nevertheless approach thee with a filial confidence, as our bountiful and compassionate Parent ; uniting our supplications to thee, with hearts full of brotherly love, and asking for each other the blessings we seek for ourselves.*

We would so remember our relation to thee, as to be above all things concerned for thy glory, and therefore make it our first petition—*May thy illustrious name be sanctified!* May the whole race of mankind, yea the whole world of intelligent creatures, pay their dutiful veneration to thy divine majesty which thy matchless perfections so justly demand. And for this purpose, *May thy kingdom* more perfectly come, which thy Son came to introduce among men: may it be established with greater efficacy, may its nature be more clearly discovered, and its interests be more resolutely pursued, by the professed subjects of it.

*May thy will*, which is always wise and always gracious, *be done, as in heaven so likewise upon earth*; and may we mortals be taught to regard it with a resignation, acquiescence, and obedience, resembling that of the heavenly spirits.

As for ourselves, O Lord, we would not seek the great things of this life; we would not be anxious about its distant futurities; but humbly intreat thou wouldst open that bountiful hand on which we continually depend, and wouldst *give us this day our daily bread*: providing a competent supply for our present necessities, and teaching us to refer the rest to thy continual paternal care.

And though we have in many respects been disobedient children, yet we beseech thee, O most compassionate Father, *to forgive us our offences*, whereby we stand chargeable, as it were, in thy book, with *debts* which we can ne-

ver clear: Yet do thou freely forgive them all, as we also desire to forgive our debtors: yea such pardon may we receive from thee our God as we are willing to impart to them.

*And do not bring us into circumstances of pressing temptation, lest our virtue should be vanquished, and our souls endangered by them: but if we must be thus tried, do thou graciously deliver us from the power of the evil one, that he may not triumph in our sin and ruin. These things we know that thou canst do for thy children, and we are humbly bold to hope thou wilt do them for us.*

*For thine is the kingdom of universal nature, and the fulness of almighty power, and the glory of infinite perfection; and to thee be the praise of all ascribed for ever. AMEN.*

*And now may the peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds through Jesus Christ. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all now and for ever. AMEN.*



*Morning Prayer for a Family for any other day in the week.*

O BLESSED God, who hast so loved the world, as to give thine only begotten Son, to the end that all who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life, mercifully look upon us, miserable sinners. How ignorant are we of his

excellency, or our need of his salvation ! How unaffected with all we have heard of his glory ! Though his name is above every name in heaven, we feel an horrid backwardness to trust our souls in his hand, and little comfort from what he has done or promised. O reveal to us, by the Holy Ghost, the person, office, love, and power of thy Christ. O that *He* may be no less precious to our souls, than he was to the saints and martyrs of old. Thou hast declared thy Son shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high ; may he be so in our eyes more and more. Thro' faith in his name, may we receive daily the pardon of our sins, the comfort of thy help, and abound in hope of the glory of God. May the love of Christ constrain us to live to his honor by loving one another. Objects always of his compassion, and saved by the redemption that is in him, may we be able to forbear and forgive, putting far from us all anger, strife, and variance. O let a life of meekness, quietness, and peace, be the fruit of our daily worship. For the credit of our holy profession, and that our prayers may not be turned into sin, make us who dwell together to be of one mind, and to build up each other in our holy faith. By thy good providence, O God, our heavenly Father, preserve us, if it please thee, from all evil and mischief, from fierce disease and torturing pain. In the midst of our prosperity, may we stand prepared for a change. O may we be able to glorify thee in tribulation, and on a bed of languishing. For this purpose, establish us still more in Jesus Christ, seal us unto the day of re-

demption, and give us in our hearts the earnest of thy Spirit.

To all our near relations and kind friends, be merciful and gracious, O Lord our God. May they be led to give a deep attention to the care of their souls, and overcome by faith in Christ this present evil world. Be a God unto them, and a guide all their days upon earth ; and after death may they be received up into glory.

Make the nation to which we belong a people fearing thy name. Bless all who are put in authority over us. Visit, comfort, and deliver all who are in grievous affliction, or oppressed with poverty ; love our enemies, bless them who curse us, and do good to them who hate us, and enable us to do the same.

Accept our praises for thy perpetual goodness to us ever since we were born, for our sleep by night, for the pleasant return of light and day, for the use of reason and the means of grace, and above all for thy chief mercy, Christ Jesus. With all that is within us we would bless thy name for this unspeakable gift, ascribing to him, with thyself and the Holy Ghost, all honor and praise, might, majesty, and dominion, world without end. AMEN.



*Evening Prayer for a Family, for any other day in the week.*

HOLY and ever-blessed Lord God, thou hast made all things, and orderest all things by thine



unerring wisdom. Thou fillest heaven and earth with thy presence, and from thee proceedeth every good and perfect gift.

We, miserable sinners, desire now to approach thee with a contrite spirit, confessing our vileness. We have been full of pride and hypocrisy in thy sight and towards men. We have been all alive to the things of the world, but utterly indifferent to thy cause and glory. Long did we stand out against every call to repentance, and often have we sinned wilfully. We have set at naught thy threatenings and promises, and hardened our hearts under thy chastisements. We are not able to reckon up all our sins, nor the circumstances which have made them exceedingly sinful. Humble us, we beseech thee, by placing before us all the detestable qualities chargeable upon us in every act of disobedience. O make us perceive clearly how unjust and daring, how rebellious and ungrateful we have been in casting thy words behind us. Give us to know there is no remission of our sins but through faith in the blood of thy Son: by his blood may we know we are justified, and have peace with thee.

Vouchsafe, O God, to turn us from all iniquity. Create us again after thy own image, that we may live to thy praise. May it be the continual desire of our souls to obey and serve thee, and may life be valued principally by us, as an opportunity of doing thy will and keeping thy commandments before men, that they may see our good works, and be led to glorify thee our heavenly Father.



Bring to our remembrance that solemn account we must give when the throne shall be set, and the books be open. May we, by faith in Christ, and knowledge of his glory, be ready for his appearance. In that great day, may we triumph with all his saints, saying, Lo, this is our God ; we have waited for him, and he will save us. This is the Lord, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

To thy merciful protection, O God, we humbly commend ourselves this night. Defend our persons, our dwelling, and our possessions. Give us, if it please thee, refreshing sleep, that, with strength of body and vigor of mind, we may serve thee, and at last be admitted into that world, where there is no night or sleep, where we shall receive the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in dependence upon whose righteousness and everlasting intercession, we offer up unto thee this our family worship, concluding as he taught us to pray,

*Our Father, &c.*



### *Another Morning Prayer for a Family.*

O most glorious and eternal God, thou art righteous in all thy ways, and holy in all thy works, infinite in mercy and goodness to all that call upon thee in truth ; and hast promised that where two or three are gathered together in thy name, thou wilt be in the midst of them ; look

down, we beseech thee, upon us, thy unworthy servants, who are here before thee to present unto thy Divine Majesty the morning sacrifice of our unfeigned praises, acknowledging that in thee we live, move, and have our being; and that from thy bountiful hand we have received all the good things we enjoy, and by thy good Providence are defended from the evils we deserve: We desire O, Lord, in an humble sense of thy great goodness towards us, to bless and praise thy holy name; particularly we adore thy glorious Majesty, for preserving us this night past, for raising us up in health and safety, and for giving us this opportunity of calling upon thy name.

Give us grace, O Lord, we humbly beseech thee, to make a right use and improvement of these and all thy other mercies; and grant that we may henceforward live as becomes the gospel of Christ, by denying all ungodliness and worldly lusts, and living soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.

And because we are not able of ourselves to please thee, vouchsafe us, we beseech thee, the assistance of thy Holy Spirit, enabling us to withstand all the enemies and hindrances of our salvation. Enlighten our understandings, that we may know thee; sanctify our affections, that we may love thee; and put thy fear into our hearts, that we may dread to offend thee. Convince us thoroughly, O Lord, of the great evil of sin, that we may endeavor in all things to obey thy blessed will, and to walk before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days.

Wean our affections, O Lord, from the things of this world ; and whatever our state and condition may be here, give us grace therewith to be content.

In all our passage through this life, and our manifold concerns about it, grant that in doing our duty, we may make thee our only stay and confidence, our hope and our trust, casting all our care upon thee, and entirely resigning ourselves to thy good pleasure in all things.

Let our chief aim and endeavor be, to secure the salvation of our souls, and to provide against that time when all earthly comforts shall vanish away.

We humbly commend ourselves, and all our affairs, this day to thy protection and blessing. Be with us in our going out and coming in, that no casualty or evil accident may come near to hurt us. Give us such a measure of health and other temporal blessings, as thou seest best and most expedient for us ; but, above all things, give us thy grace and favor, that our lives may be holy and comfortable here, and our eternal state happy and glorious with thee hereafter, through the merits and for the sake of thy dear Son Jesus Christ our Lord ; in the fullest sense of whose words, we recommend the wants and necessities of all mankind, together with our own.

*Our Father, &c.*

*Another Evening Prayer for a Family.*

O most glorious and ever blessed Lord God, who inhabitest eternity, and dwellest in that light which no mortal eye can approach ; we, thy sinful creatures, kneeling before thee, acknowledge we are not worthy to appear in thy presence, nor so much as lift up our eyes to that place of purity, where thou dwellest. O Lord, though we are thus unworthy to speak unto thee, yet so infinite and condescending is thy goodness, as to encourage our addresses to thee, by many gracious promises of thy favor and acceptance : with humble confidence then, O Lord, we presume to approach the throne of thy grace, humbly beseeching thee, in the name, and for the sake of thy beloved Son, to be merciful unto us in the pardon and forgiveness of all our sins.

We acknowledge, O Lord, that we have acted foolishly and wickedly, by doing those things which thou hast forbidden, and by neglecting to do those things which thou hast commanded : O let that mercy of thine, which has spared us so long, lead us to repentance, that we may forsake our evil ways, and turn unto thee the Lord our God.

Give us grace, O Lord, seriously to consider the great work we have to do, and the uncertainty of that time which thou hast given us to perform it in, that we may not be so foolish as to consume our days in vanity and folly, in gratifying our corrupt inclinations, and indulging our vicious appetites.

Show us the foulness and deformity of sin ;

and possess our minds with such a lively sense of those dreadful threatenings thou hast denounced against it, that we may abhor and forsake every evil way, and give up ourselves to the love and obedience of thy commandments, making it the great study and business of our lives, to serve and please thee in all things ; so shall we daily grow in grace, and be continually advancing towards a happy eternity.

Give us honest and upright hearts, such as no interest can seduce, no advantage prevail upon to depart from the ways of truth and justice ; restrain us from all immoderate desires of the things of this world, from all pride and covetousness, from envy, hatred, and malice, and from all evil speaking, lying, and slandering.

O be thou pleased so to conduct us by thy good Spirit, through all the business and employments, through all the calamities and troubles of this life, that (whatever our condition may be in this world) we may attain that happiness, which thou hast prepared for them that truly love and obey thee.

We beseech thee to extend thy mercy to the whole race of mankind ; make the light of thy gospel to shine among them ; and deliver us from all ignorance, error, and profaneness ; and grant us grace and eternal life.

Be gracious to the nation to which we belong ; give us all grace seriously to repent of the evil of our ways ; and grant that religion and virtue, peace and charity, may for ever flourish and increase among us.

Bless all in authority over us : may all their

designs tend to the advancement of thy glory, and the happiness and prosperity of thy people.

Look with pity and compassion, O Lord, upon all in affliction and temptation ; strengthen and support them, and give them, in thy good time, a happy deliverance.

Be merciful, O God, to all our relations, friends, and acquaintance ; forgive our enemies, reward our benefactors, and grant that we, and all thy people every where, may serve thee, from the highest to the lowest, and be made partakers of everlasting happiness.

To these our prayers and intercessions, we desire to add the sacrifice of our unfeigned praises to thy Divine Majesty, acknowledging it to be our bounden duty and service at all times, and in all places, to give thanks unto thee, to whose infinite goodness and mercy we owe all the comforts of this life, and all the hopes and expectations of a better.

Blessed be thy name, O God, for the continuance of thy mercies to us this day ; for providing for our bodies, and taking care of our souls ; and for delivering us from those many evils that we have justly deserved ; but, above all, we praise and bless thy holy name for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ ; humbly beseeching thee, of thy great goodness, O Lord, to pass by our unworthiness of these thy mercies, and to continue to us thy gracious favor and protection : keep us, we beseech thee, this night, under the shadow of thy wings, that no evil accident may come near to hurt us. Give us qui-

et and refreshing sleep, such as may fit us for the duties of the day following; and if thou art pleased to add another day to our lives, grant that we may improve it to thy glory, and the benefit of our precious souls; through Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and only Savior.—  
AMEN.



*Another Morning Prayer for a Family.*

GLORIOUS Jehovah! Thou hast thy being of thyself and thy happiness in thyself alone. We have our being from thee, and our happiness is only in thee. It is therefore both our duty and our interest to seek unto thee, to implore thy favor, and to give unto thee the glory due to thy name.

We confess we are utterly unworthy of the honor, and unable for the work, of communion with thee. But we come to thee in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is worthy, and depend upon the assistances of thy blessed Spirit to work all our work in us.

Thou art good to all, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works; and thou art continually doing us good, though we are evil and unthankful. We have rested and are refreshed, when many have been tossed to and fro till the dawning of the day. We have a safe and quiet habitation, while many are forced to wander and lie exposed. One day tells another, and one night certifies to another, that thou art good, and



never failest those that seek thee, and trust in thee. We thankfully own thy goodness to us, and acknowledge ourselves to be less than the least of all the mercy and truth thou hast shewed us.

Above all, we bless thee for the gifts of thy grace to lost and miserable sinners in and thro' thy dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. We praise thee that, having laid down his life to make atonement for sin, he rose again for our justification, that he might bring in an everlasting righteousness. We bless thee that our eyes see the light, and our ears hear the joyful sound of redemption by him, and of that life and immortality which are brought to light by the gospel. Glory be to God in the highest that there is on earth peace, and good-will towards men.

O grant us wisdom and grace, that we may rightly understand the gospel, firmly believe it, and cheerfully obey it; that so we may be savingly interested in the blessings which it reveals.

Through him, who was made sin for us, tho' he knew no sin, let us sinners be accepted as righteous. And as Christ died for our sins, we pray that we may be dying daily to them. May we also experience in our souls the power and virtue of his resurrection: May we rise with him from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; from the dust of this world to a holy, spiritual, divine, and heavenly life.

Help us to set our affections on things above, and not on things that are on earth. O that



time, and the things of time, may be as nothing to us in comparison with eternity, and its infinite realities ! Give us grace, we pray thee, to look up to the other world with such a holy concern and realizing faith, that we may look down upon this world with a holy contempt and indifference, as those that must be here but a little while, and must exist in some unknown region for ever.

Give us grace, we pray thee, to live a life of communion with thee, both in providences and ordinances, and a life of dependence upon thee ; at all times trusting in thy power, providence, and promises, and pouring out our hearts before thee. Enable us also to live a life of devotedness to thee ; and of complacency in thee. May we set the Lord always before us ; aim at thy glory as our highest end : and make religion not only our chief business, but our highest pleasure.

We beseech thee preserve us in our integrity to our dying day. O may we never forsake or forget thee ! but with purpose of heart may we cleave unto the Lord, and not count life itself dear to us, so that we may finish our course with honor and joy.

Let thy good providence order all the circumstances of our dying, so as may best befriended our comfortable removal hence ; and while we are here, make us wiser and better every day ; more weaned from this world, more willing to leave it, and more fit for another and better.

Bless us, O Lord, as a family, with every thing suited to our several circumstances. Give us all wisdom to know the duties of our several

characters and stations, and make us faithful in the performance of them. Be gracious to all that are related to us, or connected with us. Pity and relieve the children of affliction, and be a present help to all thy people in every season of distress. To thy providential care we commit ourselves and each other for the day ensuing. Preserve us from every danger, fortify us against every temptation, assist us in every duty, and graciously accept us in thy dear Son ; to whom with the Father, and the Eternal Spirit, be glory and praise now and for ever. AMEN.



*Another Evening Prayer for a Family.*

O God, the infinite eternal Spirit ; most perfect in power, wisdom and goodness ; though mortal eyes cannot behold thee, nor any created understanding comprehend thee, thou art ever present with us, and seest the secrets of our hearts. All our sins, and all our wants, are known to thee : But thou wisely requirest our confessions, as the exercise of our repentance, and our petitions and thanksgivings, as the expressions of our desires, dependence and gratitude. We confess our unfitness for such converse with thee. O thou, whose mercy inviteth miserable sinners to come unto thee, by the new and living way ; meet us not in thy justice, as a consuming fire, but accept us in thy righteous and beloved Son.

Thou, who art the creator of all things, didst

make us in thine image, to know, love, and serve thee. But sin hath corrupted all our powers, and perverted them from the ends for which we were made.

We ought to have served thee with our whole hearts, and to have employed our time, our thoughts, our tongues, and all our powers, for thy glory and the good of men. But alas, we have often trifled in thy worship, and hypocritically served thee with our lips alone, and have taken thy dreadful name in vain. Our thoughts have been guilty of vanity, folly, and impurity; our tongues, of idle, wrathful, and injurious words. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves, nor sought each other's welfare, temporal or spiritual, with that zeal and affection which our relation to each other, and thy love to us required. We have unprofitably abused thy talents, and done but little good in the world, in comparison with what we might have done.

And though thy wonderful mercy hath given us a Redeemer, and in him such a remedy for our sins, as is the astonishment of men and angels, we have been chargeable with unbelief, and a stupid neglect of this great salvation.

But deal with us, O Lord, not according to our deserts, but according to our necessity, and thy great goodness. Where our sin hath abounded, let thy grace much more abound.

There is enough in the merit of thy Son's obedience and sacrifice to expiate our guilt, and justify penitent believers in thy sight. We would therefore encourage ourselves in the Lord

our God; and cheerfully rely upon thy pardoning mercy.

And while in the exercise of faith, we earnestly implore the forgiveness of our past sins, we desire cheerfully to return to thee, in the way of our duty, and humbly give up ourselves to thee as our God, our Father, our Savior, and our Sanctifier; beseeching thee to receive us upon the terms of thy covenant of grace. Renew and sanctify us by thy Spirit. Take from us the heart of stone, and give us hearts of flesh. Impart to us a divine and heavenly nature, and transform us into the image of thy holiness. Enable us to devote ourselves, and all that thou givest us, entirely to thee as thine own. Bring all the powers of our souls and bodies into a full subjection to thy government.

Shed abroad thy love in our hearts, by the power of the Holy Ghost. Shew us more of thine infinite goodness and perfections, and the wonderful mercy which thou hast given us in Christ; and let the beams of thy love so fire our breasts, that we may love thee with all our hearts and souls, with all our mind and strength; and may taste the beginning of the felicity of heaven; where we shall love thee more than we can now desire or conceive.

Give us more of the spirit of adoption; possess us with all child-like affections towards thee as our reconciled God and Father in Christ. Teach us to make thee our ultimate end, and to seek thy glory in all we do. And let thy exceeding love and mercy to us, engage us to love one another; to love all mankind; and even

our enemies themselves. May we ever be ready to pardon the injuries we may receive, and to do good to all to the utmost of our power.

Keep us, we beseech thee, from every thing in our words and actions by which we should dishonor thy name, and grieve thy Spirit.—Quicken and animate us in every duty, whether personal, relative, or divine. And help us to spend this transitory life in a diligent preparation for death and eternity. Let our hearts and our conversation be in heaven. Be with us through all the changing scenes of life; and O forsake us not in our last extremity, but give us hope in a dying hour, and take our departing spirits to be with Christ.

Set up thy glory, O Lord, above the heavens, and let thy name be sanctified in all the earth. Convert the heathen and infidel world to the faith of thy Son. Give wise and upright rulers to the nations; and let the gospel of Jesus go forth as the sun, to enlighten the whole world. Reform the churches which are dark and corrupt. Cast down that tyranny and ungodliness which keep out knowledge, holiness, and peace. Preserve and bless the reformed churches, especially in these United States. Make our rulers faithful to their trust, that they may seek the true prosperity of their country. Teach thou our teachers. Give all thy churches able and faithful pastors, and abundantly succeed their labors, that their hearers may be fruitful in knowledge and holiness, peace and charity.

Bless all the members of this family, together with all that are near and dear to us, both in

body and soul ; and help us to serve each other in love. We thankfully acknowledge thy fatherly goodness manifested to us this day. Be pleased to continue it through the night watches. Give us such rest of body and mind as may fit us for the duties of the day ensuing. We ask all in the name of Jesus Christ our only Savior and Mediator. AMEN.

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*Another Morning Prayer for a Family.*

O LORD our God ! thy name is most excellent in all the earth : thou hast set up thy glory above the heavens, and thou art worthy to be celebrated with everlasting praises of men' and angels : for thou hast created all things ; and for thy pleasure it is that they are and were created. Thy hands, O Lord, have made us and fashioned us, and thou hast breathed into our nostrils the breath of life : yea, still thou holdest our souls in life, and givest us every good thing that makes our lives a blessing and a comfort to us. Thou hast formed us for thyself, that we should shew forth thy praise, and live to thy glory, as we do continually live upon thy bounty.

But, O Lord our God ! we have not brought thee the glory which thou hast made us capable of, and so many ways obliged us to : instead of that, O how greatly have we dishonored thee, our God, in the whole course and conduct of our lives ! Time after time, forgetting our gracious

giver of all our good things, who art never unmindful of us : And O how soon have we been weary to do thee service, who art never weary to do us good ! Yea, we have not only neglected thy work, but have been disobedient against thy word, and have taken bold liberties, to go on after our own foolish and hurtful lusts, in such ways of living, as thy laws and our own hearts disallow and condemn us for.

And for these things we desire to pour out our hearts, and to humble our sinful selves here before thee ; entreating thy gracious favor, for the sake of that mercy of thine in Christ Jesus, which has moved thee to spare us so long, and to do so much for us already, that thou wilt be pleased to give us repentance and pardon for all that is past, wherein we have offended thee ; whether in omitting of our duty, or failing in it, or doing contrary to it. However we have transgressed, O humble us duly under the sense of it ; and for thy dear Son's sake, absolve us thoroughly from the guilt of it.

And strengthen us, O Lord, with might by the Spirit in the inner man, to make us more watchful against, and more victorious over, the corruption of our nature, the temptations of the devil, and the distractions and allurements of this sinful world, wherein we live. O destroy in us every vicious inclination, every evil habit, and rebellious notion, that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and against the obedience of our Lord Jesus Christ. And increase and confirm in us, still more and more, thy true knowledge, and faith, and fear, and love ; and



every grace of thy holy Spirit, which thou knowest to be most wanting in us, and necessary for us : such as may make our lives still more comfortable to ourselves, more profitable to others, and more to the glory of thy name. And however it goes with us, as to the concerns of this present time, O that we may still be found in the way of our duty, fearing God, and working righteousness ; that we may secure our interest in the great Savior of the world, so that when all here shall fail us, thou mayest take us up, and be the strength of our hearts, and our portion for evermore.

Day by day we magnify thee, O Lord, who makest every day (of our lives) still, a further addition to thy mercies. We bless thee for our last night's preservation and protection, and for the rest and refreshment which thou hast given us therein. O cause us to hear thy loving kindness in the morning, for in thee do we trust : cause us to know the way wherein we shall go, for we lift up our souls to thee. Cast us not away from thy presence ; take not thy holy Spirit from us ; but direct all our ways to please thee our God, that thou mayest crown us with blessing and good success. Help us to see thy power, to own thy presence, to admire thy wisdom, and to love thy goodness in all thy creatures. And by all the comforts of creatures, O draw our hearts still nearer to thyself, the blessed Creator of every comfort ; and let our meditations of God be sweet as well as frequent, that delighting ourselves in the Lord, thou mayest give unto us the desires of our hearts. Such



thy mercy and grace we beg for ourselves, and all ours, and thine, every where, in our great Mediator's form of prayer:

*Our Father, &c.*

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*Another Evening Prayer for a Family.*

O LORD, our God! thou art infinitely great, and infinitely good. Thy glory is above all our thoughts, and thy mercies are above all thy works. And above all thy mercies, have we cause to admire, and bless, and praise thee, for those mercies which, in so large a measure, and special manner, thou hast been pleased still to vouchsafe unto us, who are the daily objects of thy bounty, and do continue still the living monuments of thy goodness. Where thy glorious perfections check and forbid our approaches, thy gracious attributes invite and encourage our supplications unto thee, and embolden us to look upon thee, as our most kind and merciful Father in Jesus Christ. And though we have great and many sins to confess, yet will we confess them, in hopes of thy pardon of them, and of power on high, to enable us against them.

Thou didst create us, O Lord, after thy own blessed image, in an holy and happy estate: but we have made ourselves vile and miserable, quite unlike the thing which at first we came out of thy hands: averse to good, prone to evil, and so very full of provocation, that it is thy wonderful patience with us, and loving kindness

to us, that thou hast not, long before this time, cut us off in our sins, and shut us up under final despair of thy mercy. But thou hast so far declared thy willingness to be reconciled even to thy enemies, that thou hast sent thy only Son into the world, upon the great errand of our salvation: that whosoever believe in him, should not perish in their sins, but have everlasting life, for his sake. O Lord, we believe, help our unbelief: and give us the true repentance towards God, and the right faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; that we may be the number of those who do indeed repent and believe, to the saving of the soul.

And save us, O Lord, from our sinful selves, and from the love and course of this present evil world, and from every self-destroying way which we are tempted to follow. Make us a way to escape out of all the snares of temptation, wherewith we have been entangled and held, and hindered in running the race set before us. And make thy ways plain before us, and so full of invitations to us, that we may be thoroughly convinced of their goodness and excellence, and resolvedly give up ourselves to follow them: that our own experience in the way of goodness may be more to keep and engage us to it, than all allurements and discouragements in the world to put us beside it. Establish, O Lord, and strengthen and settle us; that going forth in thy strength, we may do thy will to all well-pleasing; and continue in thy fear and love to our lives' end.

Which things we beg not for ourselves alone.

but also in behalf of all whom we ought to intreat thy mercy for in our prayers. O bring nigh unto thee all those that are yet afar off: and make manifest the savor of thy knowledge in every place: that such as yet sit in darkness and the shadow of death, may come to see the light of thy truth, and the joy of thy salvation. O that every one who names the name of Christ may depart from iniquity, and so live up to their high and holy profession, that they may give no just occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme; but adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things and to put to silence the ignorance of foolish men by well doing.

Be gracious and favorable, O Lord, in an especial manner to thy church. Arise, O God, and plead thy own cause, and maintain thy true and holy religion, which thou hast so long and so wonderfully owned and asserted. O let not the enemies of thy church ever have cause to say, that they have prevailed against thy people; but let all that do espouse thy cause, and stand up for the honor and defence of thy truth, be still prevalent and prosperous in all their pious designs; and still have cause to say, the Lord be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of his servants.

Bless, with the choicest of thy blessings, the President of these United States. O Lord, protect his person, direct his counsels, make his administration easy and happy, both to himself and us; and prosper all his undertakings and endeavors for the public safety, peace, and welfare of these states. Give all magistrates wis-

dom and courage to defend the truth and to do right to all. Make ministers an example to the flock, in all sobriety, righteousness and holiness of living; and establish us all an holy people to thyself; granting us one heart, and one way; that we may all agree in the same faith, and adorn it with a suitable life.

Comfort all that want the comforts which we enjoy; and apply thyself in a way of agreeable mercy, to the several necessities and calamities of all thy afflicted ones, wheresoever or howsoever they are tried. Remember, with the favor which thou bearest to thy people, all our friends and benefactors, our kindred after the flesh, and whosoever are dear to us on any other account. Make them, O Lord, such as thou wouldst have them, and such as, in Christ Jesus, thou wilt mercifully accept of them, here to thy gracious favor, and hereafter to thy glorious kingdom. Forgive our enemies, and turn their hearts; and turn ours to forgive them. And direct all our ways to please thee, that thou mayest make even our enemies to be at peace with us.

Hear us, O God of the spirits of all flesh! hear us for ourselves and others; others for themselves and us: and hear the Son of thy love, the lover of our souls, for us, and all the members of thy church militant here on earth, whereof Christ Jesus in heaven is the glorious head. For him, and to him with thine eternal Self, most holy Father, and the blessed Spirit of grace, our guide and comforter, be all thanks, and praise, and honor, and glory, humbly and heartily rendered and ascribed of us, and all thy people, now and for evermore. AMEN.

*Another Morning Prayer for a Family.*

O MOST holy, most merciful, and most gracious Lord God, thou art the inexhaustible fountain of all good, the source and spring of all our comforts here, and the sure and certain foundation of all our hopes hereafter ; look down from heaven, the habitation of thy holiness, upon us, who humbly beg leave to renew our praises to thy Divine Majesty, in whom we live, and move, and have our being.

O Lord, we acknowledge, that under thy protection we have slept this night secure, and by thy infinite goodness it is, that we are now in health and safety ; praised therefore be thy name, O Lord ; O let all that is within us praise thy holy name ; as long as we live we will magnify thee, O God, for thou art our creator, our preserver, and our constant benefactor.

Pardon, O most merciful Father, all the unworthy returns we have made for the manifold favors we have received from thee ; and grant us, for the time to come, such a sense of thine infinite goodness and mercy, that we may love thee with all our hearts, with all our souls, and with all our strength ; that we may study to please thee in all things, and be afraid of nothing so much as thy displeasure.

To this end, O gracious Lord, make us truly sensible of the vanity of this world ; that we may not be carried away with the force and power of sensible objects, nor brought under the dominion of those lusts which war against the soul. Give us grace so to use the world, as not to

abuse it; and grant that neither the cares of this life, nor the deceitfulness of riches, may ever make us neglect the great work thou hast given us to do. Root out of our hearts all covetous affections and desires, and let it be our great care and concern to provide for eternity, and to lay up a treasure in heaven, which faileth not.

Deliver us, O our God, from pride and vain glory; from a censorious and uncharitable spirit; from an envious and malicious temper; and from all those sinful and corrupt affections that are so hateful in thy sight; and O be thou pleased to endue us with that wisdom which is from above; which is first pure, and then peaceable; with that meekness and humility, which is in thy sight of so great a price; and with all those holy and Christian dispositions that thou lovest and delightest in.

Make us always mindful of our own frailty, of the shortness and uncertainty of this life, and of the eternity of the next. Make us careful so to live, as we shall wish we had done when we come to die: O let not sickness or death ever surprise us unawares, or find us in a state unprovided; but grant that we may finish the great work of our salvation before the night comes, when no man can work; that so having laid up a good foundation of hope and comfort against the day of trouble and sickness, we may, whenever thou shalt be pleased to call us hence, cheerfully resign up our souls into thy hands; and O, do thou vouchsafe to receive them to thy mercy, through the merits, and for the sake of thy dear Son Jesus Christ the Righteous.

Be with us, O Lord, this day ; let thy blessing accompany all our honest labors and endeavors ; and grant that we may take nothing in hand but what is agreeable to thy blessed will. To thee we humbly beg leave to commend our souls and bodies, and all that stand in any relation to us, beseeching thee of thy great goodness, to take us under thy protection, to defend us from all evil, and to lead us into all good. Grant that whilst we are engaged about things temporal, we may not forget the things that are eternal, nor be unmindful of that great account which we must one day give. O Lord, leave us not to ourselves, but guard us from those snares and temptations that every where surround us. Conduct us by thy good Spirit through the affairs and business of this life, that we may at last arrive at that place of everlasting rest and peace, which thou hast prepared for those who truly and sincerely love and fear thee, through the merits and intercession of thy beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord ; in whose most comprehensive words we sum up our own, and the wants of all mankind, saying,—

*Our Father, &c.*



*Another Evening Prayer for a Family.*

MOST great, most holy, and most glorious Lord God, thou hast created the heavens and the earth, and all things that are therein ; thou upholdest them all by the power of thy word,



and the host of heaven praiseth thee ; what are we, that we should presume to speak unto thee, or to lift up our eyes to that place of purity where thou dwellest ?

O Lord, thou hatest iniquity with a perfect hatred ; yet we are assured, that thou delightest in the ways of mercy ; that thou art a tender lover of souls ; and not only permittest, but invitest us, miserable creatures, to come to thee.

With humble confidence, then, O Lord, we lift up our souls unto thee, beseeching thee in much mercy, to look upon us, and to ease us of the burden of our corrupt and sinful inclinations : O cast us not away from thy presence ; but for the sake of our dear Redeemer, receive us graciously to thy mercy ; and let the merit of his bitter death and passion atone for all the follies and miscarriages of our lives past. Forgive, we meekly beseech thee, whatever we have done amiss this day, and all our lives past, either against thee, our neighbors or ourselves : O cleanse us from all our secret and unknown transgressions ; and, O merciful Father, grant that we may seriously consider and reflect upon the foulness and deformity of sin ; and what dreadful threatenings thou hast denounced against it ; that we may become true and sincere mourners for our past sins, and, as far as it is possible, redeem our mispent time, by employing the remainder of our days in thy service, and to thy glory. O make us wise unto salvation, and give us that hatred and abhorrence of sin and iniquity, that we may abstain from every kind and sort of evil.



Give us, O Lord, new hearts, new affections, and new desires ; that we may love thee with more sincerity, and serve thee with greater faithfulness, than we have ever yet done.

Convince us of the vanity and uncertainty of all things here below, and grant that we may make thee our only joy and our delight, our stay and our trust, our guide and our counsellor, and be so delighted with the ways of thy commandments, that one day in thy service may be dearer to us, than a thousand spent in vanity and folly.

Teach us, O Lord, so to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto true wisdom ; and grant, that in the days of health and prosperity, we may consider our latter end, and remember and provide for that great account which we must one day give before the judgment-seat of Christ : that when the hour of our departure shall come, we may meet death without fear and amazement ; and with a well-grounded hope of thy mercy and goodness, may cheerfully resign up our souls into thy hands, and may be willing, and even desirous to leave this world, when thou, our God, in thy great wisdom, shall see it fitting.

O Lord, let us never be separated from thee ; but grant that we may be of the number of thy faithful and obedient servants, who are united to thee by grace and good works in this life, and will hereafter live with thee in endless bliss and happiness, through the merits, and for the sake of thy beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord and only Saviour.

Our Lord, to thy merciful Providence we commend the wants and necessities of all mankind ; cause the light of thy glorious gospel to shine in all the dark corners of the earth. In a more especial manner, we pray for the good and welfare of this nation to which we belong, beseeching thee to pardon all our sins, to turn away thy displeasure from us, and to make us a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Bless the work of faith, and labor of love of all those who zealously endeavor to stop the torrent of vice, and to promote the interest of virtue and true religion among us.

Hear the cry of the poor and needy ; give ease to those that are under any affliction of mind or body, and lay not more upon them than thou wilt enable them to bear.

We pray thee, in a more especial manner to be gracious to all our friends and relations, and more particularly to ..... O Lord, thou art thoroughly acquainted with all our wants ; O vouchsafe to give us what thou seest best and most fit both for our souls and bodies.

Accept, O merciful Father, of our unfeigned praises for all thy blessings, spiritual and temporal.

Our health and safety, and all the comforts of our lives, proceed from thy bounty and goodness ; to thee, therefore, we ascribe all possible praise and thanksgiving, humbly beseeching thee to grant us the continuance of thy mercy and goodness.

Take us, and all that belong to us, this night under the care and protection of thy good Prov.

idence. Preserve us from all perils and dangers, and all apprehension or dread of any. Give us such refreshing rest and sleep, as may fit us for the duties of the day following; and if thou art pleased to add another day to our lives, grant that we may make a right use and improvement of it, to thy glory, and the benefit of our immortal souls, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in compassion to our infirmities hath taught us thus to pray,—

*Our Father, &c.*

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*Another Morning Prayer for a Family.*

O LORD our God, unto thee would we lift up our souls. Quicken us to call upon thy name. Assist us by thy Spirit in our access to thy mercy-seat, and raise our hearts to thyself. Teach us to approach thee as becometh creatures, and do thou draw nigh unto us as a God of grace.

Thou art God, and there is none else; thy name alone is Jehovah. All nations before thee are as nothing, and they are accounted in thy sight less than nothing and vanity. Thou art the blessed and only potentate, King of kings and Lord of lords. All things are naked and open before thine eyes. Thou searchest the heart of man, but how unsearchable is thine understanding! Thy power is infinite. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. Thou art slow to anger, abundant in goodness, thy mercy is everlasting, and thy truth endureth to all generations.

As thou art glorious in thyself, so by thy works thou hast manifested thy glory to us. Thou, Lord, hast made the heavens and the earth. The whole creation is the work of thine hands. Thou rulest among the armies of heaven, and doest what thou pleasest among the inhabitants of the earth. Thy works of nature and providence are full of wonder, but especially thy works of grace and redemption by Jesus Christ. While we give glory unto thee, we would humble ourselves in thy presence. Our being is but of yesterday, and our foundation is in the dust. We are not only mean in our original, but we are guilty and depraved. We confess before thee the iniquities of our thoughts, of our lips, and of our lives ; our sins of omission and of commission ; the sins of our childhood, and of our riper years ; our sins against the law and against the gospel.

We are ashamed and blush to lift up our faces before thee our God, for our iniquities are increased over our heads, and our trespasses have reached up to the heavens. We will lay our hands upon our mouth, and our mouth in the dust, if so be there may be hope.

Gracious God, we humbly beseech thee to take away the guilt of our sins, through the atonement of thy Son ; justify our persons through his righteousness, and subdue the power of our iniquities by thy Spirit. Deliver us from the natural darkness of our minds, from the corruption of our hearts, and the perverse tendency of our appetites and passions. May thy Spirit discover to us the evil and danger of sin, enlighten

our minds in the knowledge of God in Jesus Christ, and sanctify all the powers of our nature. Form our hearts according to thy will, and after the image of thy Son. Be thou our light and our strength, and quicken us in the paths of holy obedience. Fortify us against the temptations, and free us from the snares which daily attend us. While we are in this life we are in continual danger ; let the watchful eye of our God be upon us for our defence. Save us from the power of our enemies in this world, and from the punishment due to our sins in the world to come.

Preserve the gospel among us, and let all the means of grace be continued to us, and be made serviceable for the great ends of their appointment. Let all thy providences be sanctified to us. May thy mercies, as cords of love, draw us nearer to thyself ; and let the strokes of thine afflicting hand wean us from sin, mortify us to this world, and make us ready for our departure hence, whensoever thou art pleased to call us. Guide us by thy counsels, and secure us by thy grace in all our travels through this dangerous wilderness, and at last give us the victory over death, and a triumphant entrance into the kingdom of thy glory.

While we are here in the body, give us such things as are necessary to support our lives, and to make them easy and comfortable to us. Let our health, our strength, and our peace be maintained, and let holiness to the Lord be inscribed upon them all, that whatever we receive from

thine hands may be improved to thine honor and our truest advantage.

We pray thee to enlarge the borders of thy Son's kingdom : spread the gospel among the heathen, and make the name of Christ glorious from the rising to the setting sun. Call in the remainder of thine ancient people the Jews, with the fulness of the Gentiles, into thy church. Pour down a more abundant measure of thy Spirit to carry on thy own work upon earth. May his influence be diffused in plentiful degrees upon churches, upon ministers, upon families, and upon all the saints. Deliver those who suffer from persecuting powers : restrain the wrath of man, and cause it to praise thee.

We pray for the nation to which we belong, that liberty and peace may be established and flourish in it. Bless our governors, supreme and subordinate, with wisdom and faithfulness, to manage the affairs thou hast entrusted them with. We pray for our friends and relatives, that thou wouldst deliver them from all the evils they feel or fear, and bestow upon them all the good we wish for ourselves, here or hereafter.

We give thee humble and hearty thanks for all thy mercies vouchsafed to mankind in general, and to ourselves in particular, especially for the safety and refreshment of the past night. May the same good providence defend us thro' the hours of this day, and may thy grace assist us in all the duties of it. Hear and answer us, pardon, accept, and bless us, for thy mercy's

sake in Jesus Christ, through whom, by one Spirit, be ascribed to the only living and true God, everlasting praises. AMEN.



*Another Evening Prayer for a Family.*

MOST high and most holy God ; we who are but dust and ashes, take upon us to speak to thy sacred majesty. Pardon our unworthiness and help our infirmities. Hearken to the voice of our cry, O our King and our God, unto whom we will pray.

We adore thee as the first and the last, the greatest and the best of beings ; the only true and living God, whose glorious name is exalted above all blessing and praise. We adore thee as the Creator and Governor of the universe, and the bountiful benefactor of all thy creatures.

With gratitude and joy we acknowledge thy relation to us, as our Creator, our Redeemer, our King, our Almighty Friend, our reconciled God and Father in Jesus Christ.

We praise thee, O Lord, for thine original designs of love to fallen man ; that thou shouldst make such a distinction between us and the angels that sinned. Lord, what is man that thou shouldst so concern thyself about his salvation. Blessed, for ever blessed be thy name, that though fallen angels were suffered to perish without a Savior, thou didst choose any of the race of Adam unto salvation : that before all worlds thou didst enter into a covenant of grace



with thy Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and give them into his hands, that their happiness might be secured. We bless thee that thou didst reveal this mercy, in various types and promises, to our fathers by the prophets, and that in thine own appointed time thou didst send thy Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to redeem us by his death. We give glory to thy justice and thy grace for this work of terror and compassion; in reconciling sinners to thyself by the sufferings of thine only begotten and well beloved Son.

We praise thee for the gospel which thou hast published to the world; the gospel of pardon and of peace; that thou hast confirmed it by such abundant testimonies, to raise and establish our faith. We give glory to that power of thine which has guarded thy gospel in all ages; and through all the oppositions of its enemies, in earth and hell, has delivered it down to us, and proclaimed its glad tidings in our age and nation.

We bless thee that we were born in such a land of light as this, in which thou hast built habitations for thyself, wherein we have enjoyed the privilege of attending thy solemn worship, of beholding thy glory and thy grace, and of being instructed in the way of salvation.

Thanks to thy goodness for the preservation of our lives amidst all the dangers that have threatened us; that thou didst not cut us off in a state of nature and of sin; that our portion is not at this time among the children of wrath and despair; that, notwithstanding our shameful abuse of our distinguished mercies, we are



still in the land of the living and of hope. That we not only still enjoy so many of the conveniences and comforts of this life, but that the means of grace and salvation are still near unto us ; that thou art yet inviting us to look unto Jesus and be saved ; and that to the calls of thy word and providence, thou art pleased to add the calls of thy Spirit in our hearts.

O that the goodness of God may effectually lead us unto repentance, and that thy long-suffering may prove our salvation ! God forbid that our distinguished privileges should finally prove distinguished aggravations of our guilt and misery ! May we be induced, by the mercies of the Lord, to present our bodies and souls living sacrifices, holy and acceptable in thy sight, thro' Jesus Christ ; which is our most reasonable service. Under a sense of thy past goodness in general, and especially on a review of the mercies of the past day and week, we desire, O our heavenly Father, to dedicate ourselves afresh to thee. We are not our own, but thine : may we be entirely devoted to thy service, and be enabled to glorify thee both with our bodies and spirits, which are thine.

*To be added on the Saturday Evening preceding a Communion-Sabbath.*

Prepare all of us, we beseech thee, for the solemnities of thine house on the ensuing day, and render thine ordinances pleasant and profitable to us, and to our fellow-worshippers. Assist all thy ministers in leading the worship of thy sanc-

tuary, and in delivering the truths of the everlasting gospel; and do thou command the blessing out of Zion, even life for evermore. And O grant that the glad tidings of the gospel which we hear may be proclaimed through the whole earth, that all flesh may know the salvation of the Lord. We beseech thee to accept these our prayers, praises, and solemn vows, through the worthy name of thy dear Son, to whom, as the Lamb that was slain, to redeem us unto God by his blood, be glory and dominion for ever. AMEN.



*Another Morning Prayer for a Family.*

O LORD God, that hearest prayers, and art nigh to all that call upon thee in truth, having thy ears open to a world of creatures, that continually depend upon thee! As we are moved by our own necessities, so are we encouraged by the daily experience of thy mercies still to shelter ourselves under the shadow of thy wings, and to continue our suits and supplications at the throne of thy grace. And we beg of thee, who fashionest all the hearts of the sons of men, that thou wilt prepare our hearts to come into thy holy presence and to call upon thy blessed name, in a due and acceptable manner. O pour upon us the spirit of grace and of supplications; and let thy good Spirit help our infirmities, and teach us to pray, and to ask such things, and in such a way, as shall be most a-

greeable to thy will, and most advantageous to our souls.

We have taken upon us to speak unto thee, the Sovereign Majesty of heaven and earth, who are but poor worms, and sinful dust and ashes ; that have too just cause to be afraid, lest our great and manifold sins had provoked thee to hide thy face from us, and to shut up thy loving kindness in displeasure against us. For we have done foolishly and wickedly, in not hearkening to the calls of thy word, nor yielding to the monitions of thy Spirit, to walk in the ways which thou hast set before us. Our iniquities are increased over our heads, our trespass is grown even up to heaven, and our sins are a sore burden, too grievous and heavy for us to bear. They are infinite debts, and sad accounts ; for which if thou, O Lord, shouldst enter into judgment with us, we could not answer thee one of a thousand : but must lay our hands upon our mouths, and plead nothing but guilty, having our whole dependence upon thy mercy.

O God be merciful to us, miserable sinners, for his sake, whom thou hast exalted to be a Prince and a Savior, to give repentance to thy people, and forgiveness of their sins : be merciful to us, we pray thee, and heal our souls, that have greatly sinned against thee. O heal our backslidings, renew us to repentance, establish our hearts in thy true fear and love, and establish our goings in thy holy ways ; that we may not be so wavering and bent to backsliding, nor revolt from thee to turn to folly, after thou in mercy hast spoken peace to our souls ; but may

go on conquering and to conquer all the enemies of our souls, and all the hinderances of our salvation, till satan be bruised under our feet.

O thou God of all grace ! bring such thoughts to our minds, and lay such considerations home powerfully upon our hearts, as thou knowest most effectual to prevail with us, to work in us thy will, and to keep us from our iniquity, within the bounds of our duty, till thou receive us into the blessed kingdom of thy glory. And, in the mean time, sanctify to us all thy dealings with us ; and bless us in all our undertakings, and in all our conditions, fruitions and relations.

Dispose of us, we beseech thee (our God) and of all that concerns us this day, to the glory of thy name. O keep us at all times, and in all places, from the evil of sin, and from all other evils, to which the greetness of our sins does make us liable. And take thou, O heavenly Father, the gracious charge, and guidance, and government of us ; and so lead us here in all our ways, with thy counsel, that hereafter thou mayest receive us into glory ; through thy tender mercies, and our Savior's abundant merits : for whom we would thank thee, in whom we desire to be found, living, dying, and for ever.

AMEN.

*Another Evening Prayer for a Family.*

Our ever-blessed and most gracious God ! thou art the Lord and Giver of our lives and hopes, and of all our enjoyments and comforts. To thee we owe ourselves, and all that we are capable of rendering and ascribing. For by thee, O Lord, we were created and had our being ; and through thy good providence it is, that we still have been spared and preserved, and provided for, through our whole lives, unto this present time. We acknowledge thy great and daily goodness to us, and our own exceeding unworthiness of the least of all thy mercies. We take shame and confusion to ourselves, that we have so little improved, and so greatly abused, all thy patience with us, and all the various instances of thy bounty to us. We desire, O Lord, to be penitent, and humbled for our sins ; and to entreat thy gracious favor in Jesus Christ, for the pardon of them. Forgive us, we pray thee (for his sake) all the sins that we have committed against thee, and absolve us from all the evils whereof we now stand guilty before thee. And being justified by faith, grant us peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

And we pray that thou wilt be to us a Father of mercies, and a God of consolation ; so that thou wilt make us followers of God, as dear children ; ever jealous over our hearts, and watchful over our ways ; continually fearing to offend, and endeavoring to please thee ! and keeping our hearts with all diligence, that they may not be hardened through the deceitfulness

of sin. Thou knowest O Lord, our weakness, and danger of temptations ; our danger from the cruel, subtle enemy of our souls ; and from this present world, that is so full of snares ; and from our own vile flesh and deceitful hearts, so apt to betray us into the enemy's hands : we pray therefore, O Lord, that thou wilt arm us with the whole armour of God, and uphold us with thy free Spirit, and watch over us for good evermore. Especially in the times of our sorest trials, let us experience the strongest aids of thy heavenly grace, that we may never fall a miserable prey to those deadly enemies that seek to devour us.

And teach us, O our God, to know the day of grace, and the time of our visitation, and to see the things of our peace and duty to mind and settle the great eternal affairs of our souls, in this our day, before they be hid from our eyes. And while we have time, O enable us to use and improve it, to those great ends for which thou art pleased to put that precious talent into our hands, that we may make the short and uncertain stay which we have here, an opportunity of securing to ourselves a sure and everlasting well-being, when we shall depart from hence.

And seeing thou art pleased yet to hold our souls in life, and to make us find and feel, by every day's experience, how abundantly gracious and merciful thou art. O give us hearts more sensible of thy love, more affected with thy mercy, and more thankful for those continued favors which thou art pleased to multiply upon us. And help us to show forth thy praise and

the truth of our thanks, not only in speaking good of the name of God, but so ordering our conversations as becomes the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And to thy mercy in him, most merciful Father, we do now humbly recommend ourselves, and all that we are, and have, this present night: beseeching thee to preserve and defend, and bless and keep us, both in soul and body, from all evils and dangers, to which the weakness of our frame, and the greatness of our sins, do expose us. And grant us such comfortable repose, whereby our frail nature may be refreshed, and our decayed strength recovered, that we may rise again better fitted and enabled to serve thee according to thy will in all the duties of the following day, if thou shalt be pleased to make addition of another day to our lives. And as thou addest days and mercies, be pleased also to add repentance and amendment to our lives; that, as we come nearer to our end, we may be made still fitter for the enjoyment of thy heavenly kingdom; that every day may bring us still nearer to those everlasting joys and glories which thou hast prepared for them that love thee. And to thee, O blessed glorious Lord our God, be the praise, and honor, and glory, offered up with all grateful hearts, by us, and the whole church, now and for evermore. AMEN.



*Another Morning Prayer for a Family.*

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, in whom we live, and move, and have our being, and whose mercy is over all thy works; we thy needy creatures, in a thankful sense of thy good providence over us, do render thee our humblest praises for thy preservation of us from the beginning of our lives to this time. Blessed be thy holy name for the continual protection of thy hand, by which we have been defended amidst the changes and miseries of this mortal life, and delivered from innumerable dangers, and particularly from any evil accident of the night past.

To thy watchful providence we wholly owe it,\* that no disturbance hath come nigh us, or our dwelling, but that we have enjoyed quiet and refreshing sleep, and are brought in safety to the beginning of this day. For these and all other of thy mercies, our souls do bless and magnify thy glorious name, humbly beseeching thee to accept this our morning sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

And since it is of thy mercy, O gracious Father, that we are brought to the beginning of this day, let us dedicate both our souls and bodies to thee and thy service, to promote thy

\* *When any disturbance of any kind befalls a family, instead of this, say, 'That notwithstanding our fears and dangers, we are brought in safety to the beginning of this day.*



glory and our own salvation, in a sober, righteous and godly life.

But, Lord, thou knowest the weakness and corruption of our nature, and the manifold temptations that we daily meet with; we therefore humbly beseech thee to have compassion upon our infirmities, and to give us the constant assistance of thy grace and Holy Spirit, that we may be effectually restrained from sin, and excited to our duty. Suffer us not to be tempted above what we are able; and when thou seest us giving way to any temptation, stretch forth thy helping hand to save and deliver us. Imprint in our hearts such a dread of thy judgments, and such a love of thy goodness towards us, as may make us both afraid and ashamed to offend thee. And above all keep in our minds a lively remembrance of that great day in which we must give a strict account of our thoughts, words, and actions; and, according to the works done in the body, be either eternally rewarded or punished by him whom thou hast appointed Judge of quick and dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Wherefore, we beseech thee, give us grace to have thee and thy laws always before our eyes, that we may walk therein according to thy will, with watchfulness and circumspection. Keep us sober and temperate, and diligent in the several states and conditions which thy Providence hath appointed for us. Grant us patience under any affliction thou shalt see fit to lay upon us, and minds always contented with our present condition. Give us grace to be just and upright in all our dealings,

quiet and peaceable, full of compassion towards the needy and afflicted, and ever ready to do good to all men, according to the abilities and opportunities which thou shalt give us ; that so, walking faithfully before thee all our days, and being found watching, whenever our appointed time shall come, we may, from a life of righteousness, be translated to life and bliss eternal.

And we humbly beg thy blessing this day upon our honest designs and undertakings. Direct us in all our ways, and prosper the work of our hands. Let thy good Providence watch over us, and preserve us in our going out and coming in. Defend us from all dangers and adversities, and be thou graciously pleased to take us, and all things belonging to us, into thy Fatherly care and protection. These things, O Lord, and whatever else thou seest needful and convenient, both for our souls and bodies, we humbly beg of thee, for the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ ; in whose most holy name and words we pray unto thee for ourselves and all mankind,—

*Our Father, &c.*

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*Another Evening Prayer for a Family.*

MOST gracious and merciful God, who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, and hast promised mercy and forgiveness to all those who confess and forsake their sins ; we come before thee in an humble sense of our own unworthi-

ness, acknowledging our manifold transgressions of thy righteous laws, in thought, word, and deed. We have done those things which thou hast forbidden, and left undone the things which thou hast commanded; so that when we look back upon our past lives, and remember that thou art privy to our most secret sins, we are afraid of thy judgments, and ashamed to lift up our eyes unto thee. But, O gracious Father, who desirest not the death of a sinner, look upon us, we beseech thee, in thy Son Jesus Christ; for the merits of his sufferings, be thou merciful to us in the pardon of our sins; make us deeply sensible of the great evil and danger of them, and work in us a hearty contrition: And grant that the remembrance of them may be more grievous and afflicting to us, than of any other evil whatsoever; that we, worthily lamenting our transgressions, and being brought to a hearty repentance and amendment of life, may obtain forgiveness at thy hands, who art ever ready to receive humble and penitent sinners, for the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, our only Savior and Redeemer.

And lest, through our own frailty, or the temptations that encompass us, we be drawn again to our former sins, vouchsafe us, we beseech thee, the direction and assistance of thy Holy Spirit; that as thou hast put into our hearts good desires, so by the help of thy grace, we may bring the same to good effect. Reform whatever thou seest amiss in the temper and disposition of our souls; that no unlawful designs, or inordinate desires, may rest there.

Purge our hearts from envy, hatred, and malice ; that we may never suffer the sun to go down upon our wrath, but may always go to our rest in peace, charity, and good will, with a conscience void of offence towards thee, and towards all men ; that so, our hearts being a fit habitation for thy Holy Spirit, he may continually dwell therein ; and whether we wake or sleep, we may be under his blessed influence, and have our whole spirit, soul, and body, preserved pure and blameless, unto the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Accept, O Lord, as the testimony of our love and charity, our hearty intercessions for all mankind. Let the light of thy gospel shine upon all nations ; and grant that all who have already heard and received it, may live suitably to it. Bless all who by thy Providence have authority over us, and so guide and direct them, that all their designs and undertakings may tend to the advancement of thy glory, and the good and welfare of thy people. Send down thy blessings, spiritual and temporal, upon all our relations, friends, and neighbors ; reward all who have done us good, and pardon all those who have done or wished us evil, and give them repentance and better minds. Be merciful to all who are in trouble or affliction, either of mind, body, or estate ; and do thou, who art the God of pity and compassion, administer to every one help and comfort, according to their several necessities, for his sake who went about doing good to the souls and bodies of men, thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ.

We likewise add our unfeigned thanks for all the mercies which from time to time thou hast vouchsafed us. We bless thee for our being, our reason, and all other endowments and faculties of soul and body ; for our health, friends, food, and raiment, and all the other comforts and conveniences of life. But above all, we adore thy tender mercy in sending thy only Son into the world, to redeem us from sin and eternal death, and for giving us any knowledge and sense of our duty towards thee. We bless thee for thy patience with us, notwithstanding our many and great provocations ; for all the directions, assistances, and comforts of thy Holy Spirit ; for thy continual care, and watchful Providence over us, through the whole course of our lives ; and particularly for the mercies and benefits of the day past ; humbly beseeching thee to continue these thy blessings to us ; and to give us grace to show our sense of them, and all thy other mercies, in a sincere obedience to thy laws.

And particularly, O Lord, we beseech thee to continue thy gracious protection to us this night. Into thy hands we commend ourselves, our souls and bodies, our substance, dwelling, and all things that belong to us. Do thou, O gracious God, who neither slumberest nor sleepest, be pleased to take us, and all belonging to us, this night into thy special care and protection. Defend us from all danger and mischief, and from dread and fear of any ; and grant that we may enjoy such quiet and refreshing sleep, as may fit us for the duties of the day following. And

O Lord, make us ever mindful of that time, when we shall lie down in the dust ; and grant us grace always to live in such a state, that we may never be afraid or unfit to die ; but that whether we live, we may live unto thee ; or whether we die, we may die unto thee ; that so living and dying we may be thine, through the merits and satisfaction of thy Son Jesus Christ ; in whose prevailing name and comprehensive words, we continue to pray as he hath taught us—

*Our Father, &c.*

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*Another Morning Prayer for a Family.*

O ETERNAL God ! Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, the Author of everlasting life ; we, thine unworthy servants, desire to praise thy name for all the expressions of thy bounty towards us. We give thee thanks, that thou hast preserved us from the many and great dangers, wherewith we have been encompassed ; that thou hast brought us safe to the light of this day ; and that thou hast refreshed us the past night with quiet rest and sleep. But, above all, we bless thy holy name, that thou hast given thy Son to die for our sins, and to put us in a way of being happy, if we obey thee ; and after all our wilful abuse of thy mercies, hast still patience with us to see if we will finish the work thou hast set us to do, and fit our souls for eternal glory.

Pardon, O Lord, we beseech thee, all our former sins, and all our abuses of thy forbearance



and long-suffering, for which we are now sorry at our hearts. Give us grace to lead more holy lives, and to be more careful in improving all future opportunities. Make thyself present to our minds, and let thy love and thy fear rule in our souls, in all those places and companies where our occasions shall lead us this day.

Keep us chaste in all our thoughts; temperate in all our enjoyments; humble in all our opinions of ourselves; charitable in all our speeches of others; meek and peaceable under all provocations; sincere and faithful in all our professions; and so just and upright in all our dealings, that no necessity may force, nor opportunity in any kind allure us to defraud, or overreach our neighbor. When thou bestowest good on others, let us not envy, but rejoice in it; and when thou addest any to ourselves, let us own thy mercy, and humbly thank thee for it.

Afford us convenient supplies in all our reasonable necessities, and protect us against the approach of all dangers; make us diligent in our affairs, and give such success to our lawful endeavors as thou seest best and most expedient for us; teach us contentedly to submit, and not to repine at any thing that happens by the allotment of thy wise Providence.

In all our passage through this world, and our manifold concerns in it, suffer not our hearts to be too much set upon it; but always fix our minds upon the blessed hope of everlasting life, that as we go along, we may make all things of this world minister to it, and be careful, above all things, to fit our souls for that pure and per-

fect bliss, which thou hast prepared for all that love and fear thee, in the glories of thy kingdom.

Direct us in all our actions, guard us against all dangers, relieve us in all straits, and grant that we may always make thee our confidence, and take all things well that thou orderest for us. Shorten our sorrows, and deliver us from all our sins, for Jesus Christ's sake ; in the full extent of whose words, we pray to be heard both for ourselves, and for all mankind,—

*Our Father, &c.*



*Another Evening Prayer for a Family.*

ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men ; we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we have from time to time most grievously committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, after thy great goodness ; according to the multitude of thy mercies do away our offences ; wash us thoroughly from our wickedness, and cleanse us from our sins ; create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness.

Grant us, O Lord, the assistance of thy Holy Spirit, that for the time to come we may think and do always such things as be rightful ; that we, who cannot do any thing that is good with-



out thee, may, by thee, be enabled to live according to thy will. Let thy grace always so preserve and follow us, as to make us continually to be given to all good works.

Help us, O Lord, to withstand the assaults of the enemies of our salvation, the world, the flesh, and the devil; and with pure heart and mind to follow thee, the only God. Graft in our souls the love of thy name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness; and of thy great mercy keep us in the same. Grant that we may love the things which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found. Dispose us by all the means of grace we enjoy, to attain that everlasting salvation which thou hast promised.

Teach us, O Lord, so to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom; that we may press forward toward the prize of the high calling that is before us, with faith and patience, with humility and meekness, with mortification and self-denial, with charity and constant perseverance to the end; so that when we shall depart this life, we may sleep in the Lord, and at the general resurrection in the last day, we may receive that blessing which thy beloved Son shall then confer on all that truly love and fear thee.

Take us, O Lord, we beseech thee, into thy protection this night, and by thy great mercy defend us from all the perils and dangers of it. Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and in-

wardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities that may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul.

Extend thy goodness, O Lord, to the whole race of mankind. Have mercy upon all Jews, Turks, Infidels, and such as know not thy truth, or have erred from the same, and are deceived ; take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt of thy word ; and so fetch them home to thy flock, that they may be saved with thy people in the great day of the Lord Jesus. Grant unto all them that are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may avoid those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same. Bless the President of these United States, and all others in authority, that in their several stations they may be useful and serviceable to thy glory, and the public good. We make our humblest supplications to thee for all our benefactors, friends, and relations, and also for our very enemies ; let thy fatherly hand be over them, and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of thy word, that in the end they may obtain everlasting life. Look with an eye of pity and compassion upon all those who are any ways afflicted in mind, body, or estate ; give them patience under all their sufferings, and in thy due time, a happy issue out of all their afflictions.

And as we pray unto thee, O God, for ourselves and others ; so we desire to bless and praise thy holy name, for all thy goodness and

loving kindness to us and to all men. We give thee hearty thanks for the preservation of us the day past, and the rest of our lives, from innumerable accidents and dangers, for the comforts and conveniences, as well as the necessities of life : But above all, we praise thee for the redemption of the world, by the death and passion of our Savior Christ, who did humble himself even to the death of the cross, for us miserable sinners, who lay in darkness and in the shadow of death, that he might make us the children of God, and exalt us to everlasting life. Teach us to express our thankfulness, by submitting ourselves entirely to thy holy will and pleasure, and by studying to serve thee in true holiness and righteousness all the days of our life. Accept, O Lord, of these our prayers and praises, in and through the mediation of Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior and Redeemer, who hath taught us when we pray, to say,—

*Our Father, &c.*



### *Another Morning Prayer for a Family.*

BLESSED and glorious God ; thou art the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things ; the Father of mercies, and the God of all grace. We are not worthy of the least of all thy blessings ; and yet how large a share have we had of them ! Open thou our lips, and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

We are thy creatures, O Lord, whose hands have made and fashioned us ; thou art the Father of our spirits, and our bodies are thy workmanship.

We bless thee that thou hast made us after thine own image, but a little lower than the angels, and crowned us with glory and honor : that thou hast taught us more than the beasts of the field, and made us wiser than the fowls of the air. Help us to worship and serve thee the Lord our Maker. May all those powers, by which thou hast distinguished us from the rest of thy creatures, be devoted to thy service, and employed for thine honor.

We bless thee for thy tender care of us in the helpless state of infancy, and for the constant attendance of thy providence ever since. Thou hast fed us all our life long, and redeemed us from evil. We bless thee for preservation [or recovery from sickness,] and for deliverance from the many dangers to which we have been exposed. Thou hast, in love to our souls, saved us from the pit of corruption, thou hast delivered our eyes from tears, our feet from falling, and our souls from death. O may thy goodness lead us to repentance, and may we walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

We praise thee that we were born in a land enjoying the gospel, and not in the region of the shadow of death : neither among Pagans, who have not the Bible, nor Papists, who are forbid the use of it. Thou hast shewed unto us thy word and thy statutes, thy grace and covenant ; thou hast not dealt so with many other nations.

We bless thee for the gospel itself, and for thy Son, the Redeemer of lost sinners, therein revealed. May his name be unto us as ointment poured forth. Blessed be God who hath so loved the world as to send his only begotten Son into it, that the world through him might be saved.

We bless thee for thy Spirit which thou hast sent to abide with thy church for ever, to convince of sin, to sanctify the heart and to dwell in the souls of believers. O may that blessed Spirit take up his abode in our souls, to enlighten, to quicken, to sanctify, and to comfort us ! We bless thee for the appointment of a gospel ministry in the church, as the means of converting sinners, and edifying the body of Christ ; and for the opportunities we have enjoyed for attending the ordinances of the gospel. Lord teach us to profit by them, and make thy word the savor of life unto life to our souls.

We would be particularly thankful that we were born of pious parents, or have been cast in the families of those professing the gospel, who were concerned to bring us up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We bless thee for their repeated instructions, faithful admonitions, seasonable corrections, holy examples, and affectionate prayers. O our God, grant that all may not be in vain, and that we may not be, after all, cumberers of thy ground. Water all these means with thine heavenly influence, and make us fruitful in every good word and work.

Make us more thankful for all thy mercies, and help us not only to speak, but to live thy praise. We lament our past ingratitude. What

unsuitable returns have we made for that goodness of thine which has followed us all our days! We earnestly implore thy pardoning mercy, through the great Mediator, and would as earnestly entreat thy quickening influence, that we may love thee more and serve thee better. O grant us the continued supplies of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, that we may give all diligence to add to our faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity. May these things not only be in us, but abound, that we may not be unfruitful in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Help us to put on the whole armor of God, that we may stand against the wiles of the devil, and withstand in the evil day. Keep us from the evil of the world, and give us that faith which will overcome it. Teach us our duty in all parts, and make us complete in all the will of God. Help us to walk in all the statutes and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

Help us duly to consider our latter end, and diligently to prepare for death and eternity. Let us not presume upon long life, or talk of goods laid up for many years, since we know not how soon our souls may be required of us. Lord teach us so to number our days as to apply our hearts unto wisdom. Whatsoever our hand findeth to do, may we do it with all our might, since there is no work, nor knowledge, nor device in the grave, whither we are going.

And now, Lord, what wait we for? Our hope is in thee. Let thine ears be open unto the supplications of thy servants. Accept our acknowl-

edgments for thy mercy the night past. Take care of us through this day. Fit us for the duties and the trials of every day, and O prepare us for our last. All which we beg in the name, and through the mediation, of the Lord Jesus, who has taught us to pray after this manner,—

*Our Father, &c.*

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*Another Evening Prayer for a Family.*

O THOU, whose name alone is Jehovah, thou art the most high God over all the earth. Thy greatness is unsearchable, thy understanding is infinite, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. From everlasting to everlasting thou art God, with whom there is no variable-ness, neither shadow of turning. Thou, O Lord, fillest heaven and earth with thy presence. Thou searchest the heart, and triest the reins of the children of men. Thou knowest our down-sitting and up-rising, and art acquainted with all our ways. Yea, all things are naked and open to the eyes of that God with whom we have to do.

Lord help us to consider this when we approach unto thee, and do thou suitably impress our minds therewith. Fill our souls with awe and reverence of thy majesty, and with trust and confidence in thee. Inspire our hearts with devout affections, and help us to worship thee in spirit and in truth.



We are now come to seek thy favor, and implore thy blessing. Look down upon us in mercy. Let thy Spirit help our infirmities. Give ear unto our voice, O Lord, and consider our meditation.

We confess that we are utterly unworthy of thy favor. Lord, we are vile, what shall we answer thee? The imagination of our hearts has been evil from our youth. How early did pride, anger, envy, revenge, self-will, and other unruly appetites, appear in our lives. O remember not the sins of our youth, nor our latter transgressions; for we must confess our guilt has increased with our years. We have walked too much after the way of our own hearts, and in the sight of our eyes.

These our iniquities are highly aggravated, as they are committed against light and conviction, against promises, vows, and manifold experience, against great grace and love. Lord, we abhor ourselves, and repent in dust and ashes. Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou us from secret faults. Grant us the blessedness of those whose transgression is forgiven, and whose sin is covered, unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity. We have no merit to plead, but cast ourselves upon thy sovereign mercy in the Redeemer. Thou hast declared thy name, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. Let us experience the bounty and compassion of thy nature. We plead the blood of atonement. We have sinned, but Christ has died. O justify us

freely by thy grace through the redemption that is in him.

And O do thou heal and sanctify our sinful nature. Help us to put off the old man which is corrupt, and to put on the new man, which after God, is created in righteousness and true holiness. Enlighten our minds, and grant us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ. Open our eyes that we may behold wondrous things out of thy law, and be filled with the knowledge of thy will in all spiritual understanding. Give us faithful consciences, that shall smite us when we do evil, and teach us to submit to their reproof. Subdue our wills, cast down lofty imaginations, and bring every thought in subjection to Christ. Help us to set our affections on things above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and grant that our whole spirit, soul, and body, may be preserved blameless until the coming of Christ.

As thou requirest that prayers and thanksgiving be made for all men, we would remember the cases of others before thee. Shower down, O Lord, thy blessings upon the inhabitants of the world. Give thy Son the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession. Be favorable to our native land. Let thy providence be our defence, and thy presence our glory.

Bless the ministers of thy word. Make them faithful and successful. Clothe them with salvation, that thy saints may shout aloud for joy. Be with those especially under whose ministry

we are placed. Enable them to speak the things that become sound doctrine : help us to profit by their endeavors, and grant that we may be their joy and crown in the presence of Christ at his coming.

May thy blessing rest on this family, and thy light shine on our tabernacle. May the heads of this family be zealous in their endeavors for the good of those committed to their care. May the children of the family be their rejoicing, by walking in thy truth. Help them to flee youthful lusts, and to remember thee their Creator.

Bless all our relations, friends, and acquaintance, with all good things, and especially with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus. Graciously pity the afflicted, succor the tempted, provide for the poor, and be a present help to all in the time of trouble.

We bless thee for the mercies of this day, that no evil has befallen us in it. Pardon the sins of it, in our thoughts, words, and actions. Take us under thy protection this night, and in the morning cause us again to hear the voice of health and gladness. We ask all in the name of Jesus our adorable mediator and advocate. AMEN.



### *Another Morning Prayer for a Family.*

O most gracious God, who art the author of all the good things that we enjoy ; in thee we live, and move, and have our being ; and to thy good Providence we ascribe it, that we are now

in health and safety ; that we have enjoyed the comfortable refreshments of the night past, and that none of those evils which we have justly deserved have come nigh us, or our dwelling ; for these, O Lord, and for all thy other mercies, we desire to adore and bless thy glorious name, humbly beseeching thee to accept this our morning sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, in and through the merits and mediation of our dear Redeemer.

For his sake, O Lord, we humbly beseech thee to pardon all our sins ; and grant that a due sense of thy mercies may be so deeply impressed upon our minds, that we may love thee above all things, and manifest the sincerity of that love, by a constant and habitual care to do what is pleasing in thy sight.

O Lord, there is nothing that we desire so much as to be of the number of thy faithful servants ; to this end vouchsafe us the assistance of thy good Spirit, to enable us to withstand the temptations of this wicked world, and with an undaunted courage and resolution, to bear up under all the trials and difficulties which we shall meet with in our Christian warfare.

Grant, O Lord, that we may never have any fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, nor grieve thy blessed Spirit by any impure and sinful desires ; but as we have given up ourselves to the service and obedience of our great Lord and Master Jesus Christ ; so teach us to walk in his laws, to conform ourselves to his precepts, and to endeavor, as much as in us lies, to imitate his example.

Let our conversation be always such as becometh the gospel ; and grant that we may daily endeavor to mortify our corrupt inclinations ; to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, and to bring every inordinate desire to the obedience of thy will.

Give us a heart truly honest and upright, and so steadfast and immoveable in the ways of truth and justice, that no worldly interest or advantage, how promising or great soever, may be able to shake our integrity.

In the use of honest and lawful means, give us grace to depend upon thy Providence, and to rest contented under all the dispensations of thy infinite wisdom and goodness. And though thou shouldst see fit to deprive us of any, or even all the comforts of this life ; yet, O gracious Father, leave us not destitute of those things that accompany salvation ; nor deny us thy favor, which is better than life itself : Whatever thou art pleased to deprive us of, yet take not from us, we beseech thee, the comforts of thy Holy Spirit ; but in all the troubles and disappointments of this world, in all the calamities and trials we shall meet with here, be thou our only refuge and support, our stay and our trust, our Savior and mighty Deliverer. Stand by us in all trials, succor us in every temptation, support us in discouragements, and advise us in all difficult cases ; But especially, O Lord, we most importunately beseech thee, that when the time of our dissolution draws nigh, and all things here begin to fail us, thou wouldst then vouchsafe to strengthen and support us, and at last re-

ceive us into thy blessed kingdom, through the merits, and for the sake of our eternal Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Be thou pleased, of thy great goodness, O Lord, to continue to us thy favor and protection. Direct and guide us, sanctify and preserve us. Let thy watchful Providence be our guard and defence. Keep us in thy fear, all the day long, and grant that we may take nothing in hand but what is agreeable to thy blessed will. Into thy hands we commit our souls and bodies, and all that are related to us ; humbly beseeching thee, to keep us from all evil ; to lead us into all good ; and to carry us safely through the dangers and temptations of this wicked world, to that place of everlasting rest and peace, which thou hast prepared for thy faithful servants, through the merits of thy beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord ; in whose words we commend the wants of all mankind, together with our own,—

*Our Father, &c.*



*Another Evening Prayer for a Family.*

O most glorious and ever-living God, who inhabitest eternity, and dwellest in that light which no mortal eye can approach unto ; we thy unworthy servants beg leave to present our prayers before thy Divine Majesty.

O Lord, we confess, that notwithstanding all thy gracious dealings and dispensations towards

us, we have neither loved thee, served thee, nor obeyed thee, as we ought to have done.

The cares and concerns of this life are too apt to busy and employ our thoughts, and make us cold and remiss in the great and important work of our salvation.

O our God, we lament and bewail the corruption of our natures, and our manifold sins and transgressions. Where shall we fly for succor but unto thee, who art a God of infinite love and pity? O pity our weaknesses, and forgive and wash away all our sins, in the blood of that immaculate Lamb, Christ Jesus, that neither those which we have this day committed, nor any other follies of our lives past, may be ever had in remembrance before thee.

O reserve not our sins to be punished in the day of thy fierce wrath and displeasure; but bury them all in the depth of thy everlasting mercy, that they may never rise up to our confusion here, nor our condemnation hereafter. Look upon us, O Lord, as a reconciled father in Christ Jesus: Speak peace unto our consciences, and say unto our souls, I am the God of thy salvation.

But, O Lord, we beg not only the pardon of our transgressions, but most earnestly entreat thee (who hast promised to give thy Holy Spirit to them that ask it) that thou wouldst enable us to forsake every evil way, and to walk before thee in newness of life. Let not sin reign in our mortal bodies, nor any sinful desires take possession of our hearts; but by the powerful efficacy of thy grace, destroy in us all evil habits



and irregular dispositions, and whatsoever opposes itself to thy most holy will and commandments.

Give, us, O Lord, a lively sense and conviction of the shortness and uncertainty of all things here below ; that our hearts being weaned from this love of the world, they may daily more and more aspire after those joys which are at thy right hand for evermore.

Make us, O gracious God, faithful and wise stewards of all those talents thou hast committed to our trust. Let us never apply thy blessings to any sinful or unworthy purposes, nor abuse thy mercies by any ungodly use of the least of thy good creatures ; but give us grace to improve them to thy glory, the good of our own souls, and in the comfort and relief of our distressed brethren ; that being rich in good works, and having laid up a treasure in heaven, we may (when this earthly tabernacle shall be dissolved) have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, thro' our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Extend thy mercy, O God, to all mankind : have pity upon all Jews, Turks, and Infidels, and bring them to the light, and the knowledge, and the practice of thy laws.

Bless thy holy Church universal ; remove out of it all errors and corruptions, all division and dissensions, and let love and charity, and goodwill be visible in the lives of all its members.

Reform all things amiss in this our land. Root out from among us all profaneness and impiety ; all uncharitableness and animosities ; that we,

turning from all our evil ways unto thee, the Lord our God, thou mayest turn from thy displeasure against us, and delight over us to do us good; to build us up, and not to destroy us.

Bless and protect the President of these United States, the Governor of this commonwealth, and all in authority over us, and make them instruments in thy hands of great good to thy church and people.

Look down with pity and compassion upon all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. Comfort and support them under their afflictions, and give them in thy due time a happy deliverance.

Send down thy blessings, spiritual and temporal, upon all our friends and relations. Give us what thou seest most profitable for us: And as thou best knowest all our wants, so be pleased to suit thy graces and blessings to the several necessities of our souls and bodies.

To these our prayers and intercessions, we desire likewise, O most merciful God, to add our unfeigned thanks and praise to thy incomprehensible Majesty, for all the mercies and benefits which thou hast so freely and undeservedly conferred upon us.

We bless thee for our creation and preservation; for our health, strength, peace, and safety; for thy continual care and watchful Providence over us ever since we were born: and for the comforts and conveniences we have hitherto received, and, in particular, for the mercies and refreshments of the day past.

We confess, O Lord, our unworthiness of thy

mercies ; but in confidence of thy infinite goodness, we beg leave to commend our souls and bodies to thy fatherly care and good Providence, humbly beseeching thee to take us, and all that belong to us, this night, under thy Almighty protection.

Refresh our bodies with quiet rest and sleep, and our souls with the consolations of thy Holy Spirit ; and when thou shalt think fit to take us out of this world, give us everlasting rest and peace in thy eternal kingdom, through the merits and for the sake of our blessed Savior and Redeemer Jesus Christ ; who hath taught us, when we pray, to say,—

*Our Father, &c.*

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### *Another Morning Prayer for a Family.*

O most blessed and most glorious Lord God, who art of infinite goodness and mercy ; we thy creatures, whom thou hast made, and to this moment hast preserved, do now present ourselves before thee, to offer up the morning sacrifice of our unfeigned praises and thanksgivings ; thy mercies are renewed to us every morning, and thy goodness follows us all the day long : thou visitest us in the night season, and every moment of our lives is a new instance of thy mercy.

It is by thy goodness, O Lord, that we have this night slept secure, and are now raised up in health and safety. Praised therefore, be thy name, O God, for of thee only cometh our salva-

tion ; thou art the God of our health, our Savior and mighty Deliverer ; as long as we live we will magnify thee, O Lord ; for a joyful and pleasant thing it is to be thankful. O give us hearts always tuned to thy praises, which is our happiness as well as our duty.

Imprint on our minds such a deep sense of thy mercies, that we may never provoke thee to withdraw thy favors from us. Let not the blessings thou bestowest on us make us in love with this world ; let neither covetousness nor ambition, neither pride nor vanity, neither a contempt of others nor a fond conceit of ourselves, be the effects of thy loving kindness towards us ; but endue us with such humble and contented minds, such meek and resigned spirits, such quiet and peaceable tempers and behavior, as becomes creatures and sinners. O let the consideration of our unworthiness suppress in us all proud and aspiring thoughts, and all covetous and ambitious desires ; that being meek and lowly in our own eyes, we may find rest unto our souls, and be filled with that grace which thou hast promised to the humble.

Fit and prepare us, O Lord, for every condition and change, but especially for our great and last change. Strengthen our faith in the time of sickness and trial, and forsake us not when our strength faileth us. Let thy merciful ears, O Lord, be then open to our prayers ; and spare us, O Lord most holy, O God most mighty ; O holy and merciful Savior, thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour,

through any pains of body, or weakness of mind, to let go our dependence on thee.

O let not the cruel enemy of our souls affright us with his terrors, but give thy holy angels charge over us ; and let the consolations of thy Holy Spirit fortify our minds, and dissipate our fears, and be a reviving cordial to our souls at that last and momentous period of our lives.

O Lord, leave us not to ourselves in that time of distress, when we shall stand in so much need of thee. Give us an unfeigned repentance of all our sins, great love to thee, and charity to our neighbors, an entire submission to thy blessed will, and (if thou seest fit) some foretaste and assurance of our salvation. But if thou, in thy great wisdom, shall not see fit to vouchsafe us so great a mercy, yet, O gracious Father, let us not fail in the great day of judgment, to hear that blessed sentence pronounced unto us,—*Well done, thou good and faithful servants, enter thou into thy Master's joy.* Grant this, O most gracious God, for thy mercy's sake, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Be with us, O Lord, this day, in our going out and coming in ; preserve us from the dangers of evil company ; from the deceitfulness of our own hearts ; and defend us more especially from those sins that are more apt to betray and ensnare us.

Let thy blessings accompany all our honest labors and endeavors, and vouchsafe us such a measure of health, and other temporal mercies, as thou seest best for us.

We desire, O Lord, to leave ourselves, and

all our affairs in thy hands, humbly beseeching thee to take us, and all that belong to us, under the care and protection of thy good Providence, and so to bless, direct, and guide us in this life, that we may at last obtain that greatest of all blessings, the eternal salvation of our immortal souls, through the merits, and for the sake of thy dear Son, and our only Savior, Jesus Christ the Righteous ; in the full extent of whose words, we desire to be heard for ourselves and all mankind,—*Our Father, &c.*



*Another Evening Prayer for a Family.*

O ETERNAL Being ! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God, blessed for evermore ; we, thy unworthy servants, adore thy Glorious Majesty, acknowledging our dependence upon thee, and that all we have proceeds from thine infinite bounty and goodness.

Thou hast shown thyself a most kind and indulgent Father : but alas ! we have been undutiful and disobedient children, and have made very ungrateful returns for those innumerable mercies and favors which thou hast bestowed upon us.

O Lord, our consciences accuse us of having done many things contrary to thy blessed will ; of having acted foolishly and wickedly, contrary to our best and greatest interest.

We are sensible, O Lord, that the greatest concerns of this world are as nothing when compared with eternity ; and yet how apt are

we to grow careless and remiss in the great and important work of our salvation, and to suffer our affections to be carried away after the things of this life.

O Lord, the wages, and desert, and punishment of sin, is death ; but thou art infinite in mercy, and willest not the death of a sinner ; remember then, we beseech thee, thy tender mercies ; and for the sake and merits of our dear Redeemer, have mercy upon us, and be not angry with us for ever. Accept of that full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, which thy beloved Son offered upon the cross ; and through the merit of his bitter death and passion, pardon all our sins, particularly those which we have this day committed. O Lord, give us an interest in the blood of that immaculate Lamb, Jesus Christ ; and grant that we may never render those sufferings which he underwent for sinners, ineffectual to the salvation of our souls.

Give us grace seriously to consider that it is our indispensable duty to forsake every evil way. Possess our souls with just and lively apprehensions of the *infinite disproportion* there is between this world and the next, that we may make a *right use* and *improvement* of all those gracious opportunities which thou art pleased to give us of working out our salvation, and securing an inheritance in that kingdom which is to last for ever.

Let no temptations or allurements divert us from securing the interests of our precious souls ; whatever else we leave undone, let that be our great care and concern, the first and last of all



our thoughts, and the chief business and employment of our whole lives.

O Lord, suffer not the affairs and business which we are engaged in, to draw our affections from heaven and heavenly things, but grant that we may so pass through things temporal, as not to lose the things that are eternal ; and that in all the concernments of this life, we may govern ourselves by the rules of temperance and sobriety, justice and honesty, prudence and moderation, and with an entire trust and dependence on thy fatherly care and good Providence ; that having always before our eyes that great account which we must one day give, we may never dare to do any thing to dishonor thy name, nor be so wretchedly foolish, as to purchase any happiness in this world at the expense of thy favor ; but that making thy laws the rule of all our actions, we may approve ourselves to thee, as becometh thy servants ; by being zealous and devout in thy service, kind and charitable towards our neighbors ; by being meek and patient, quiet and peaceable, humble and inoffensive towards all men, and, as far as in us lies, useful and beneficial to the world ; that so glorifying thee here upon earth, we may, at our departure hence, enter into the joy of our Lord, and be for ever glorified in thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our only Savior and Redeemer.

Be gracious, O most merciful God, to the whole race of mankind. Pity the deplorable state of those that know thee not, and have never heard of thy name. Reform the wicked and

impenitent, and let all that name the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Be mindful, O Lord, of all that are in any affliction or distress. Relieve and comfort those that suffer for the testimony of a good conscience, or that labor under the torments of a wounded spirit. Let the sorrowful sighing of the afflicted come before thee, and deliver them in thy good time out of all their troubles.

Let every one of our friends and relations, O God, be of the number of those whom thou lovest and delightest in. Defend them from the evils and temptations of this world, and grant them whatever thou seest needful both for their souls and bodies.

To these our prayers and intercessions, we desire to add our unfeigned praises for all thy blessings, spiritual and temporal. We bless thee more particularly for the mercies of the day past; for preserving us in health and safety; and for delivering us from the evils which we have most justly deserved.

Give us grace to make a right use and improvement of all thy mercies; and vouchsafe, O Lord, to continue to us thy gracious favor and protection. Be thou pleased, of thy great goodness, to take us, and all that belong to us, this night, under the care of thy good Providence. Defend us from all perils and dangers; and after the comfortable refreshments of rest and sleep, raise us up in health and safety, with hearts full of love to thee, and zeal to thy service, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the fullest sense of whose words we pray to be heard,—*Our Father, &c.*

*Another Morning Prayer for a Family.*

ALMIGHTY and most glorious Jehovah; we adore thee as the God of nature, the God of providence, and the God of grace. As from thee all creatures received their beings, so on thee they constantly depend. With the deepest humility would we prostrate ourselves before thy throne, and acknowledge our constant and entire dependence upon thee; not only for the continuance and the comforts of our natural lives, but for the safety and welfare of our souls, in time and to eternity. We confess not only that we are guilty creatures, and as such need thy pardoning mercy, but also that we are depraved and impotent creatures, and as such stand in absolute need of thy renewing and strengthening grace.

We desire sincerely and humbly to acknowledge before thee our own weakness and insufficiency for any thing that is spiritually good. We have experienced it a thousand times; and yet our foolish hearts are too prone to trust in themselves, and form resolutions in their own strength. Give us, we pray thee, a more deep and effectual conviction of our impotence, and bring us to a more humble distrust of ourselves, and a more entire repose on thee.

We rejoice, O Lord, in the kind assurance which thou hast given us, of thy readiness to bestow liberally upon us all the assistance which we want, in order to a successful opposition against sin and temptation, and the acceptable performance of all the arduous duties of the di-

vine life. In compliance with thy condescending invitation, we come with boldness to the throne of thy grace, that we may find grace to help in every time of need ; and would earnestly plead thine own gracious promise, O heavenly Father, to give thy Spirit unto them that ask it.

God forbid that we should entertain the thought of turning thy grace into wantonness, or perverseness, or of making our weakness an excuse for negligence and sloth ! We confess, thou hast already given us more strength than we have used ; and we charge it upon ourselves, and not on thee, that we have not received more abundant supplies. We desire for the future to be found diligent in the use of all appointed means. In the neglect of these, we know that our petitions would be a profane mockery, which might justly provoke thee to take away thine Holy Spirit from us. We would therefore resolve to exert ourselves to the uttermost, and earnestly entreat the communications of thy grace, that we may be enabled to fulfil our resolutions.

Be thou surety, O Lord, unto thy servants for good. Be pleased to shed abroad thy sanctifying influences on our souls, to form us for every duty which thou requirest. Implant every christian grace and virtue deep in our hearts, and maintain and strengthen them amidst all the assaults both from within and without, to which we are continually liable, while we are in this world, where we carry about with us so many infirmities.

Fill our breasts, we beseech thee, with good

affections towards thee our God, and toward our fellow creatures. Help us always to realize thy presence, and to remember that every secret sentiment of our souls is open to thee. Under such a conviction, may we guard against the first risings of sin, and the first approaches to it. And that Satan may not find room for his evil suggestions, we pray that thou, Lord, will fill our hearts with thy Spirit, and take up thy residence there. Dwell in us, and walk with us, and let our bodies be the temples of the Holy Ghost.

May we be so joined to Christ Jesus our Lord, as to become one spirit with him, and feel his invigorating influences continually bearing us on, superior to every temptation, and to every corruption; that while the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men utterly fall, we may so wait upon the Lord as to renew our spiritual strength, to run without weariness, to walk without fainting, yea to fly as on the wings of eagles towards heaven. May we be going on continually, from one degree of faith and love, of holiness and zeal, unto another, till we appear perfect before thee in Zion, to drink in immortal vigor and joy from thee, the everlasting fountain of both.

While we are here, we are surrounded with dangers and difficulties. Blessed God, to thine almighty power we flee. O thou that savest by thy right hand them that put their trust in thee, stretch out thine omnipotent arm to save us. We put ourselves under thy protection; let thy grace be sufficient for us, and thy strength be

made perfect in our weakness. We dare not say, we will never forsake or deny thee ; but we hope we can say, that we would not do it. O root out those corruptions from our hearts, which, in an hour of pressing temptation, might alter our views, and betray us into the hands of the enemy.

Strengthen our faith, O Lord ; encourage our hope, and inspire us with an heroic resolution, in opposing every thing that obstructs us in our way to heaven. May we set our faces like a flint against all the assaults of earth and hell. If sinners entice, let us not consent ; if they insult, let us not regard it ; if they threaten, let us not fear. May we never be ashamed to plead thy cause against the most profane deriders of religion ; but may we be filled with courage, charity, and zeal, to teach transgressors thy ways, that sinners may be converted unto thee.

Keep us, O God, at all times, by thy mighty power, and on that may we always rely. Never let us think ourselves strong enough to maintain, the combat without thee : nor yet imagine ourselves so weak that thou canst not support us.

Wherever thou leadest us, there let us follow, and whatever station thou appointest for us, there let us labor. In the midst of dangers and discouragements, may we look unto Jesus, the captain of our salvation, the great author and finisher of our faith ; and may we finally be made more than conquerors through him that hath loved us, in whom we have righteousness and strength, and unto whom be ascribed salvation and honor, blessing and praise, now and forever. AMEN.



*Another Evening Prayer for a Family.*

EVER blessed and glorious Lord ; thou art a great God, and a great King, above all gods. The earth is thine, and the fulness thereof: the world, and all they that dwell therein. We are thine, for thou madest us, and on thee we entirely depend for the continuance of life and all its enjoyments. It is most fit that we should daily acknowledge our dependence upon thee, and our obligations to thee, in united acts of prayer and praise.

We prostrate our souls this evening before thy throne, to tender thee the homage which is thy due ; and under a sense of our great unworthiness we beg to be accepted through Jesus Christ.

We bless thee for the beings thou hast given us, and for all the powers of body and of mind with which we are endowed. We praise thee for the continual care of thy providence over us by night and by day, and for the numberless blessings with which our lives are crowned. How precious are thy thoughts unto us, O God ; if we would count them, they are more than can be numbered.

We particularly praise thee for the safety and the comforts of the day past. Under a sense of thy former kindness, we commit ourselves and each other to thy future care. May we this night rest secure under the shadow of thy wings and let thy good providence continue to be exercised for our protection and comfort through all the remaining days of our lives on earth.



Under an apprehension of the manifold dangers and calamities to which we are ever liable in this present evil world, we flee to thee as our only refuge. Be thou pleased to take the charge of us, and we shall be secure from evil, and our hearts shall not fear. O thou great shepherd of Israel, whose watchful eye is ever upon them that trust in thee, preserve us lying down and rising up, going out and coming in from this time forth and forever.

But we would more especially be solicitous for the safety and happiness of our souls.

Blessed God; in the midst of ten thousand snares and dangers, from without and from within, permit us to look up to thee as the God of salvation, to whom belong the issues from death. Let thine eyes be upon us for good, and keep these souls of ours from whatever would involve them in guilt and ruin.

When we are tempted to sloth and indolence, awaken us, we pray thee, with the lively views of that invisible and eternal world to which we are tending; and engage us to remember the infinite importance of diligently improving those transient monuments which thou hast allotted us to prepare for it.

When sinners entice us may we not consent, but may holy converse with thee give us a disrelish for the society of those who are strangers to thee, and would separate our souls from thee. May we honor them that fear the Lord, and by walking with wise and holy men, may we be daily advancing in wisdom and holiness.

Guard us, O Lord, from the love of sensual

pleasure. May we remember that to be carnally minded is death. Purify and refine our souls by the influences of thy Holy Spirit, that we may always shun unlawful gratifications; and enable us to use the allowed indulgencies of animal nature with sobriety and moderation, that the comforts of life may not be the occasion of sin. May we ever remember the superior dignity of our intelligent and spiritual nature, and pursue the pleasures of the man and the christian as our noblest happiness: above all may we aspire after those pleasures which are at thy right hand for evermore.

Preserve us, O God, from that pride which goeth before destruction, and that lust of ambition by which so many have fallen. Promote in us that humility and lowliness of mind which so well becomes the disciples of the blessed Jesus. May we learn of him who was meek and lowly in heart. Deliver us, we beseech thee, from covetousness, which is idolatry, and that love of the world which is enmity with God. Let us not make haste to be rich, nor seek great things for ourselves on earth, remembering that the love of money is the root of all evil. And if riches increase, let us not set our hearts upon them. May our desires after worldly possessions, and our delight in them, be moderated by considering their uncertain and unsatisfying nature; and while others are laying up for themselves treasures on earth, may we be rich towards God.

Deliver us from all those excessive cares about the things of this life in general, which would so engross our time and thoughts, that the one

thing needful would be forgotten. May we never be too busy about the most lawful things, to attend to those great affairs which lie between thee and our souls : never so taken up with the concerns of time, as to neglect the interests of eternity.

Deliver us from all those fleshly lusts which war against the soul, and from all those vices of the mind which tend to grieve thy good Spirit, and to banish peace and joy from the heart.

Especially we pray, that thou wilt deliver us from the sins which do most easily beset us, and enable us to set a special guard against them. Help us continually to watch and pray, that we may not enter into temptation, and to keep our hearts with all diligence, since out of them are the issues of life.

We lament it, that through our neglect of watchfulness and prayer, we have so often yielded to temptation, and fallen into sin. Mercifully pardon all our past neglects ; make us more circumspect for the time to come ; and do thou, O God, of all grace, keep us from falling, and preserve us by thy mighty power, through faith unto salvation.

Our safety and happiness is in thee alone. On thy power, grace, and faithfulness will we rely, and to thy name shall be all the glory, through Jesus Christ our only Mediator and Advocate. AMEN.

## PRIVATE AND OCCASIONAL PRAYERS.

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### *The Aged's Prayer.*

O LORD of my life, thou art my God from the womb, my hope and trust from my youth ; by thee I was brought into the world, and upon thee have I lived all my days. O with what patience and long suffering hast thou endured me ! and with what loving kindness and tender mercies still preserved and followed me ; how many have I seen snatched out of this life (as I fear) miserably unprovided for their death ; whereas thou prolongest my days, and together with more days, still addest new mercies to my life : O that it may be in mercy to my soul, that I am suffered to live so long in the world ; that as my life is lengthened out, so all that concerns my salvation may be filled up, that I may redeem the time, and improve all the opportunities and means of grace which thou art pleased to put into my hands, for the best profit and advantage of my soul, that my age may be the good old age ; and the remaining time of my sojourning here, the best of all my time.

Though my sight is dim to the world, let my eyes be ever towards the Lord, and open to see the things of my peace ; though my ears are dull of hearing, let my heart be attentive to thy calls,

and to hear thy voice, while it is called to-day. Though I cannot (as formerly) relish the pleasures of meat and drink ; yet let me taste the goodness of the Lord, and favor the things of the Spirit of God, and hunger and thirst after righteousness, and those pleasures which are at thy right hand for evermore. And though my limbs are weak, and my strength will not serve me to travel abroad as I have done ; yet make me strong in the Lord, to do thy work, and to walk in thy ways ; and to perform my great journey home to my house eternal in the heavens : and seeing there is no man that liveth and shall not see death : and the longer I have escaped it, the nearer I am now to it, and shall one day certainly fall by it ; and must every day reckon upon it, and know not but my soul this night may be required of me : O let not my length of days tempt me to forget their end ; or to put my last day far from me : but let me keep it ever in my prospect, as drawing nigh to me ; that I may order all my concerns, not only like a stranger and sojourner with thee, as all my fathers were ; but as a dying man, and ready to drop into the grave, waiting and watching, and preparing for the coming of my Lord ; that at thy coming, thou mayest find me so doing.

And because I am old in sins, as well as in years ; pulled down with iniquity, as well as with age ; and the number of my transgressions exceeds not only my years and days, but even the hours of my life, and the hairs of my head ; O my gracious Lord, give me true repentance ! and that godly sorrow for my sins, which may

prevent my going down in a worse sorrow to my grave. Thou hast saved many old sinners; O God, be merciful to me a sinner. Put all my sins upon the account of thy dear Son; and wash me thoroughly from them, in the fountain of his precious blood. Especially, O merciful Lord, acquit and discharge me from the sins that lie heaviest upon me; and that make the thought of death and judgment most frightful to me. O give me, Lord, some tokens for good, that I shall find such mercy at thy hands, that I may depart in peace, and finish my course with joy, and in the end of my life, be numbered among the redeemed, blessed of the Lord, through the tender mercies of my God, and the all-sufficient merits of my only Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN.

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### *A Prayer for a Young Person.*

WHITHER, O Lord, shall a young man go, or how shall he be able to escape all the snares which beset him, and all the corruptions within his own heart ever ready to betray him? Where, but to thy throne of grace, O God of all power? Here, therefore, do I present my supplication, humbly beseeching thee to give unto me that faith in thy word, which shall make me receive all thy promises with delight and comfort, and stand in awe of doing any thing to incur thy threatenings. Establish in me the fear of thy eternal majesty, and a steadfast purpose of



heart to walk before thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life. Subdue my natural pride, which would lead me to be a rebel against thee, O my God, and lightly to regard the plainest and most positive of thy commands. Quench those lusts which the fire of youth ever kindles in the heart. Instead of being heady, high-minded, rash, and presumptuous, open mine ear to receive instruction : inspire me with meekness to be humble in my whole behavior, and ever to follow that which is good. Create in me a constant distrust of myself, an aversion to the company of the lewd, the gay and thoughtless, and a jealousy of those things to which I find myself most vehemently inclined ; knowing that by nature I am altogether earthly, sensual, and devilish. Now in my youth, grant I may ascribe unto thee the honor due unto thy name, by preferring always the knowledge of thy truth, the sense of thy love, and observance of thy will, to all the pleasures of sin and vanity. O convince me that the beginning of sin, as well as of strife, is as when one letteth out water. Teach me how soon sin will ensnare, how insensibly entangle, and how difficult it is to escape from those evil tempers and indulgences, when once complied with, which might easily be vanquished by resistance at first. Let thy Spirit be my perpetual monitor, guide, and comforter, through thy word. Root out of my vain heart all good opinion of myself, all haughtiness of spirit, all stubbornness and moroseness of disposition, all affectation of conforming to fashionable sin and folly, and every wanton imagination ; these vile



propensities, the miserable diseases of my fallen nature, which I find within me. Help me, O my God, to mortify them all, to advance in grace as I grow in years, to gain a complete victory over my corruptions, and make a constant progress in the knowledge, faith, and consolations of Jesus Christ the Lord; in whose early youth I see an example of holiness and righteousness, which I am commanded to follow, and through whom I hope to be accepted unto life for evermore. AMEN.

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*A Prayer to be used either by a Father or Mother for their Children.*

O LORD, make me a kind and tender parent, truly careful and solicitous to promote the welfare and happiness of my children. Let thy good Spirit assist me to form in their tender minds the principles of virtue and religion, to teach them to remember thee, their Creator, in the days of their youth, and to bring them up in thy fear and love: let me make it my constant care and endeavor to wean them from all pride and vanity, and to set before them the example of a holy and religious life.

O let the powerful efficacy of thy good Spirit root out of their hearts all corrupt and sinful affections; and instead thereof, do thou sow the incorruptible seed of thy grace, that they may become partakers of thy divine nature, and may

Bring forth in their lives the fruits of righteousness and true holiness.

Defend them, O Lord, I beseech thee, against the evils and temptations of this world, and grant that they may never be led away by the wicked customs and examples, the lusts and vanities of it ; but obediently keeping thy holy will and commandments, and walking in the same all the days of their lives, may be instruments of thy glory, by doing good in their generation ; and after they have served thee faithfully in this world, may hereafter be made partakers of everlasting happiness in that which is to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.



### *A Prayer for a Master or Mistress.*

O God, make me, I beseech thee, a kind and gentle master, forbearing all cruel and severe usage towards those thou hast placed in subjection under me, as knowing I have a master in heaven, with whom is no respect of persons. Let me never be so wicked as to put my servants upon cheating and lying, or any other base or unworthy practices ; but give me a tender care and concern for their souls ; that they may never perish through any neglect or fault of mine.

Let me imitate the example of thy servant Joshua, and resolve that both I and my house will serve thee. To which end, give us grace daily to offer up our joint prayers and praises to

thy Divine Majesty, and to be frequent in attending upon the public offices of religion, and to spend some part of the Lord's day together in prayer, and other holy duties. Grant this for the sake of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

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*A Prayer for a Family when any Member of it is sick, proper for Morning or Evening.*

O THOU infinitely great and glorious God, thou killest and makest alive. Thou woundest, and thy hands make whole; thou bringest down to the grave, and bringest back again. Thou dost according to thy will in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth, and none can stay thine hand, or say unto thee, What doest thou? Yet righteous art thou in all thy ways, and holy in all thy works. Even when thou afflictest and causest trouble and heaviness to fall upon us, it is that we may learn righteousness from thy judgments, and receive profit from thy correction. Wherefore, though thou hast now visited our house with sickness, and art calling us to humiliation for our sins, yet we would still speak good of thy name, and love and bless thee. We desire at this season to remember all the past mercies with which thou hast been pleased to bless us and our household. God forbid that our present grief should make us unmindful of the constant benefits we have enjoyed. How long has each of our family lain down and risen up, gone out and come in, in

health, strength and peace? How long has the candle of the Lord shone upon us without intermission? For these multiplied favors, blessed, O Lord, be thy good and holy name; since the smallest of benefits is more than we deserved, and the sharpest affliction less. For to us, on account of our transgressions, is most justly due indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish. Wherefore, then, should living men complain, men and transgressors, for the punishment of their sins? Shall we receive so much good at the hand of the Lord, and shall we not receive evil; patiently and contentedly receive evil also? This temper we know, O Lord, is our bounden duty; O form it in us. And as, in great compassion to us, thou hast opened a way of relief for us under every trouble, by directing, commanding, and encouraging us, in all our afflictions, to pour out our complaints unto thee, and tell thee of all we fear and feel; to thee, O Father of mercies, do we make our supplication at this time. O Lord, be not far from us. In entire submission to thy most wise and holy will, do we now earnestly pray for that person whose sickness fills us with so much concern. O look upon him (or her) in his low estate; suffer not, we beseech thee, his disorder to proceed, and let not this sickness be unto death, but for the manifestation of thy grace towards us all. Thou knowest, Lord, his frame; lay no more upon him than thou wilt enable him to bear with patience and quietness of mind. And, O thou great Physician, without whom all others are of no value, do thou direct to the most proper med-

icines, and bless the art of healing to his body, and our great comfort. In thy due time, restore thy servant to health and strength again, that he may have a longer day of grace and salvation, prove more useful, and do more good in his generation. In the mean time, however thou shalt think fit to dispose of him, O sanctify unto him this affliction; work in him deep humiliation for his sin; bless him with repentance unto life; enable him by faith to behold the Lamb of God, and to trust in the fountain opened in his blood for the remission of sins, that, being justified through faith, he may have peace with God thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. Make all his bed in his sickness, and let patience have its perfect work in his soul. Raise him up to praise thy name, to pay those vows he makes in trouble before the assembly of thy saints, and to walk in newness of life. But if thou dost not see fit to spare thy servant, whom we are now remembering before thee, O prepare every one of this family, according to our several relations, for the awful stroke. With respect to himself, if the time of his departure draweth nigh, O let his heart be comforted by thy promises in Christ, and taste that thou art gracious unto him. May his soul be safe and happy in the hour of death; and, in the great day of the Lord Jesus Christ, may he be found among those who died in him.

And help us all, who are now in health, to improve this loud and solemn call to prepare for our own sickness and disease. Let us not abuse our bodily strength to encourage ourselves in sinful security and impenitence. Give us al-

ways to be ready, by performing the will of our Lord, that whensoever he shall come, we may be found of him in peace, and enter into his joy: that whenever our health is turned into sickness, and our strength into weakness, and our ease into sharp pain, we may not be cast down or perplexed, but feel in our souls those supports and consolations which the world cannot give, nor death itself take away.

Hear us, O Lord our God, in these our humble requests: forgive us our sins; and accept our persons and our service through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.



*A Family Thanksgiving for the Recovery of a sick Member thereof.*

Most gracious and holy, good and merciful God! we have heard, we have seen, we have experienced thy love. Blessed, for ever blessed be thy name, that instead of being known to us by the judgments our sins have deserved, thou art manifested to us as a God willing to forgive all our iniquities. Thou hast delivered our eyes from tears, and our hearts from anguish. Thy servant, whom thou hast lately afflicted, is now a monument of thy sparing mercy. Thou hast chastened or corrected him (or her), but thou hast not delivered him over unto death. Thou, Lord, hast turned our mourning into joy, and our fears into songs of praise.

O may this thy servant, whom thou hast spar-

ed, love thee more, and walk more exactly before thee in the land of the living. We beseech thee, perfect all that concerns his recovery : and grant that this gracious interposition may properly affect both him and every one of us in this family. From henceforth may we all more entirely depend upon thee for the continuance and preservation of our dearest earthly comforts : may we consider them as thy free gifts, O Lord, and know that thou alone makest every earthly blessing be to us what it is. And give us grace so to use and enjoy all our temporal comforts, as those who know the fashion of this world passeth away. Grant we may learn, from this late affliction in our family to live more like persons who are soon to be separated by death, and to give all diligence to grow rich towards God, that we may be better prepared for a breach in our family whenever it shall come. And whomsoever of us, O God, thou shalt be pleased to call away first, may we be ready to obey the summons ; and, though parted for a season here, be joined again in heaven, and be all of us for ever with the Lord, and with one another.

That we may none of us fall short of so glorious an end, O grant us a clear knowledge of the excellency of our God, and a firmer dependence upon the word of thy grace. Grant us a stronger love to the Lord Jesus Christ, and a greater resemblance of him ; that each of us in our particular station may be zealous for God, full of mercy and justice towards men, and possess every temper whereby God can be glorified in us.

Fill our minds with a more cheerful and live-



ly sense of our obligations to thee, especially for this late additional mercy : write it, we beseech thee, on our hearts, so that no temptation from without, or corruption from within, may make us ever act as if we forgot it.

And now, O Lord, we again present both ourselves and family, all we have and all we are, a lively sacrifice unto thee for all our remaining days. Be with us when we are passing through the valley of the shadow of death ; may we then fear no evil, nor have cause to fear any. Guard us through the gloomy passage, and bring us safe to thine eternal kingdom and glory. We humbly ask all these blessings, though utterly unworthy ourselves of any notice, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who ever lives to make intercession for us. AMEN.

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*A Prayer for a Woman when her time of Travail draws near.*

O God, the help of all that put their trust in thee ; the support of the weak, and the relief of the needy ; look with pity upon me thy servant, who, in my best estate, am but a weak and helpless creature ; and much more in the condition I am now in, which is attended with many pains and uneasiness, under which nothing but thy power is able to support me.

O Lord, in thee is my trust, who, I know, art able and willing to help me ; I repose myself therefore under the care and protection of thy

fatherly goodness, desiring to rest upon thee alone for my support, who art the rock of ages, and the strength of all that put their trust in thee. Oh ! let me not be disquieted with the fear of any evil, since none can happen unto me without thy leave ; nor be frightened with the approach of any pains ; but give me grace patiently to resign myself to thy blessed will in all things, who knowest what is best for me, and who, I trust, will not lay upon me more than thou wilt enable me to bear.

O Lord, be thou graciously pleased to proportion my strength to my weakness ; and when pain and sorrows have taken hold on me, leave me not under them, I beseech thee, but save and deliver me for thy mercy's sake ; and as I have hitherto experienced thy fatherly goodness in every state and condition of my life, so let me still find the continuance of it, to carry me thro' all the troubles and uneasinesses of this life, and more particularly to enable me to go through the time of my travail, which is now drawing near at hand.

O Lord, pardon those sins that have made me unworthy of thy care, and deal not with me as I have deserved, but according to thy mercy, and the merits of thy dear Son Jesus Christ the Righteous ; to whom, with thee, O Father, and the blessed Spirit, be all honor, glory, power, thanksgiving, and praise, both now and for evermore. AMEN.

*A Prayer to be used by a Husband, or other Friend, in private, for a Woman in Labor ; And which, by changing I for we, may be used by the Friends of the Woman in her Presence.*

O God, our refuge and strength, I fly unto thee for succor, in behalf of thy servant, now laboring under the pains and anguish of child-birth. Shorten her sorrows, increase her patience, and lay not more upon her than thou wilt enable her to bear.

O hear her prayers, and let her crying come unto thee ; forsake her not, I beseech thee, when her strength faileth : give her a humble trust and confidence in thy goodness ; and oh ! let her find that the support and comforts of thy Holy Spirit far exceed the pains that she is now to go through.

Give her quiet submission to thy blessed will, and in thy good time send her ease and deliverance. Preserve that infant which now struggles for its birth ; and (if it be thy good pleasure) make her speedily a joyful mother of a hopeful child, that may live to be an instrument of thy glory, and useful in its generation.

O Lord, I leave her in thy hands, and resign her to thy will ; humbly beseeching thee to deal graciously with her, through the merits, and for the sake of thy dear Son, and our only Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN.

*A Thanksgiving to be said in the presence of the Woman after her Delivery, which may be used for sometime afterward.*

O FATHER of mercies, and God of all comforts, we thy unworthy servants do now present ourselves before thee, to return unto thy Divine Majesty our most humble and unfeigned thanks, for that thou hast vouchsafed to deliver thy servant from the great pain and peril of child-birth. Blessed be thy name, O Lord, that thou hast turned her sorrow into joy, and her pains into ease and refreshment; continue, we beseech thee, thy fatherly goodness to her; let thy good providence still watch over her, and thy strength support her under all the weaknesses of her present condition.

And grant, O most merciful Father, that not only this thy servant, but every one of us here present, may, from the consideration of thy great goodness, be excited to a greater love to thee, and a stricter obedience to thy laws; that thou mayest still delight over us to do us good; and that we, serving thee faithfully all our days, may at last obtain that greatest of all mercies, the eternal salvation of our immortal souls, through the merits of thy Son, and our only Savior Jesus Christ.

*This is to be added if the child is living.*

We commend likewise to thy mercy and goodness this tender infant; preserve it, that it may be regenerated and born again by baptism; that

as it is thine by creation, so it may thereby be made thine by adoption and grace, and be daily renewed by thy Holy Spirit.

Sanctify it, we humbly pray thee, and take it into thy protection, and so fill it with the graces of thy Holy Spirit, that it may be of the number of thy faithful servants, through Jesus Christ our blessed Lord and only Savior. AMEN.



*A Prayer to be used before Partaking of the  
Lord's Supper.*

IN obedience to thy command, my Savior and my God, I now come to eat of that bread, and drink of that cup, which is designed to set thee forth manifestly crucified before our eyes. O teach me, that I may come with knowledge of the nature and infinite value of thy sacrifice. May I feel my poverty and defilement, and draw nigh with a true heart, utterly rejecting every other way of salvation men naturally trust in, and placing all my hope on thy blood to cleanse me from all unrighteousness. I would come with unfeigned love, designing to make a full surrender of myself to thee, thou Lord over all, and head of the church. Thou wast pleased to forgive the woman who was an infamous sinner, and bid her go in peace. Thou didst declare the publican justified. Thou didst put away the sin of Peter who denied thee with oaths and curses. Thou didst take up the crucified thief immediately into glory, upon turning to thee for

mercy. Bless me also, O my Lord; forgive my transgressions as thou didst theirs. In this feast, lift up the light of thy countenance upon me, that I may know that I am justified by thy blood, and shall be certainly preserved and saved by thy life in the presence of God for thy church. When the outward and visible signs of thy meritorious death are put into my hands, may I, by a true faith, eat thy flesh and drink thy blood, so as to find it meat indeed and drink indeed unto my soul, so that I may dwell in thee, and thou in me; that I may know I have eternal life, and that thou wilt raise me up at the last day.

May thy love for our souls, stronger than death, unite us all in love to each other, as members alike of thy body in the church. Whilst we are all looking upon thee the just suffering for us unjust, may every angry and selfish passion die away. May brotherly love reign in our hearts, and be continually exercised with delight amongst us all. And all the time I sojourn in the flesh, give me, by the power of thy grace to keep the feast upon thee our passover sacrificed for us, not with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Grant these requests for the glory of thy great name. AMEN.

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*A Thanksgiving and Prayer after the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.*

I DESIRE with all my soul to adore and magnify thy blessed name, O Lord God, my heaven

ly Father, for all the expressions of thy love and bounty, to me a poor unworthy sinner. Particularly for thy precious favors and the renewed pledges of thy love in Christ Jesus, which I have received from thee this day; that thou hast admitted me, not only into thy house but to thy table; and used me as thy friend and the child of thy family; who deserves to be cast out as an enemy, and to be trampled even as the off-scouring of all things. O what manner of love is this, that the God so greatly offended by us, should not only forgive us, but entertain and feast us with all the good things, which our blessed Savior has merited and prepared for us! Lord what is man, thou art so mindful of him, and the son of man that thou so visitest him! And what am I, one of the vilest and sinfulest of men, that the great Lord, so ill used by me, should deal so exceedingly graciously with me! O make me to know the things that are freely given me of God, and how much I do owe unto the lord, for all thy kindness to my soul, which thou hast redeemed to thyself. O give me a heart deeply sensible of thy mercy, and steadfastly purposing to live to thy glory; that I may shew my thankfulness for thy benefits, by my obedience to thy precepts. O keep me mindful of the vows of God upon me: and help me to live, as having my holy Redeemer now dwelling in me.

And as I have received Christ Jesus our Lord, so enable me to walk in him; to walk more worthy of the Lord unto all well-pleasing; to walk in love, as Christ loved us; and to go on



in the strength of what I have received from thee, to live unto thee : following after holiness, as being not only brought so nigh to, but intimately conjoined with the holy one of God.

As I have eat and drank the sacramental bread and wine, to the nourishment and refreshment of my frail body ; so let the crucified body and effused blood of God my Savior, nourish and sustain my immortal soul unto life eternal : and revive me with the sense of thy pardon and peace, and love, that is better than wine, and better than life itself.

And O that the sacrifice of Christ Jesus, (that sacrifice of himself) which he offered upon the cross, and which I have this day been commemorating at thy table, may atone for all the failings and miscarriages in my preparations and performances ! That upon the account of that grand propitiation for the sins of the whole world, I may be spared and accepted with thee my God, here to thy blessed love, and hereafter to thy heavenly glory : through him that gave himself for us, and has also given himself to us ; even the Son of thy love ; and the great Lover of our souls : for whom, and to whom, with thy eternal Self and Holy Spirit, be all thanks and praise, and honor, and glory, ascribed of me, and of all thy church, now and for evermore. AMEN.

*A Prayer at the Close or Beginning of a Year.*

ETERNAL Jehovah, whose nature is unchangeable, and of whose years there is no end; we bless thee that, amidst all the vicissitudes and dangers to which we are subject, thou makest our lives thy care. Hitherto the Lord hath helped us. We desire this day to call to remembrance the years of the right hand of the Most High. Goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our lives. We would now particularly call to mind the mercies of the last year. We are the living, the living to praise thee, as we do this day. Blessed be God for all the mercies, personal and relative, temporal and spiritual, with which the past year has been crowned.

To thy care, direction, and blessing we commit ourselves and each other for the following part of our lives, and especially for the year ensuing. We know not what even a day, and much less what a year, may bring forth: nor would we wish to know. It is enough for us to be assured that our times are in thy hands. There we cheerfully leave ourselves and all our concerns, praying and believing that thou wilt order all things wisely and graciously for us.

We pray, with submission to thy sovereign will, that thou wouldst continue our lives, and preserve our health and comforts to the close of another year. But especially we pray that thou wouldst prepare us for, and sanctify to us, the events of it, whatsoever they may be.

We would humbly lament the sins of the year past, as well as all the former sins of our lives.

We beseech thee, of thine infinite mercy, to pardon them; and grant us grace to watch and strive against the repetition of them. May all old things pass away, and all things become new.

We desire to begin the new year with God. We would afresh commit ourselves to thy care, and consecrate ourselves to thy service. And having done so, we desire cheerfully to refer all future events to thine infinite wisdom, and fatherly goodness.

As every year which passes brings us nearer to death and eternity, may it find us better prepared for our great change. We know not but this year may be our last: God grant that it may prove our best. If thou hast so decreed that this year any of us shall die, O grant that death may be no terror nor surprise to us. May we be dying daily to sin and the present world, so that whenever we finish this mortal life, we may enter upon that infinitely happy one which shall never end. May the close of every year, and every day, find us wiser and better: more happy in ourselves, more useful to others, and more meet for that world where days and years shall be unknown, and time shall be no more. In thy presence may we there all spend a blessed eternity!

### *Prayer for the Morning of a Public Thanksgiving.*

GREAT Parent of good, to thee the blessed fountain of life, light, joy, and comfort, we desire to ascribe all glory. Thou art essentially love; the earth is full of thy goodness, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. Thou feedest the young ravens when they cry, and givest the beasts of the field their meat.

But special cause have we, to praise thee for thy goodness to man, whom thou hast made but a little lower than the angels; crowned with glory and honor, and formed with capacities to know, serve, and enjoy thee, the supreme good. We thank thy good providence that our lines have fallen to us in such pleasant places, and that we have such a goodly heritage; that thou hast fed, and clothed, and provided for us, not the necessities only, but so many of the comforts and conveniences of life; that thou hast been our deliverer in danger, our help in trouble, and our guide in darkness. We would adore that goodness which has been our protection the past night, in the defenceless hours of sleep and darkness, and causes the day spring to know its place.

But especially, blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that we are blessed with spiritual blessings, in heavenly things, in Christ. Glory to God in the highest, that there is peace proclaimed on earth, and good will to the children of men. We thank thy mercy, that the joyful sound has reached our ears;

that we enjoy an accepted time ; that we have been favored with so many instructions and motives to lead us to the knowledge, and to quicken us to the practice, of our duty ; and that notwithstanding all our unfruitfulness, our candlestick is not yet removed out of its place. We are among those monsters in creation, who have rebelled against that gracious Being who made them, and who has nourished and brought them up as children. We are those evil, and unthankful ones, on whom thou causest thy sun to rise, and rain to descend. Continually, are we provoking thee, to take from us thine abused mercies.

O that thy goodness might lead us to repentance ; and will God enlarge our hearts, to praise his sovereign love, for all his rich mercies. Not unto us, O Lord, but to thy name, be all the praise.

Prepare our hearts, to unite with thy people, in grateful offerings, for private and public mercies. We thank thee that we have our favored lot, in a land where thy churches are planted ; where civil and religious liberty abounds ; where we are favored with the means of useful knowledge, and the blessings of civil government. We offer thee our grateful acknowledgments, in particular for the mercy, which has crowned the present year ; that we are permitted to enjoy such measures of health, peace, and plenty ; that thou hast caused the earth to yield its increase, and the trees their fruit, and hast so liberally supplied the wants of thy numerous offspring.

O help us to praise thee aright, for thy good-

ness, and for thy wonderful works to the children of men; and may thy mercy and loving kindness be still continued. O thou keeper of Israel, and Savior thereof, be thou always in the midst of us; be our light, our defence, and glory; though our iniquities testify against us, do thou it for thy name's sake.

Direct in the great councils of our nation. Bless thy servant the President of these states, and all in places of subordinate trust. Let not the wicked bear rule, nor the vile be exalted. Let no root of bitterness, spring up to trouble us; lay thy restraints on the strong corruptions of the heart, and dispose thy people to a due subjection to lawful authority, not for wrath, but for conscience sake. Bless this state and the government more immediately over us; bless all means for the advancement of knowledge, and the useful arts; and may thy blessing, which maketh rich, rest upon our basket, our store, and on all the labor of our hands. But, above all, we pray that thou wouldst rain down righteousness upon us; cause pure and undefiled religion to revive; and may Zion rise from the dust, and put on her beautiful garments. Be with the ministers of thine everlasting gospel; and may their hands be made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob. Extend the kingdom of the Redeemer to the remotest ends of the earth; and under the influence of that religion, which is love; may war have an end, and all the members of this thy great family unite in brotherly love.

Establish thy precious covenant with us of

this house, and to all thy gifts wilt thou add a grateful heart. Prepare us and all thy people for the public solemnities of this day : and may we so offer praise that we may glorify God.

We commit ourselves, O God, and all for whom we ought to pray, to thy infinite mercy in Christ Jesus; to whom, with the Father, and Spirit of truth, be all praise through everlasting ages. AMEN.



*A Prayer for the Evening of a Public Thanksgiving.*

O LORD God of hosts, thou art a God merciful and gracious; slow to anger, of great kindness, and forgivest iniquity. Under this endearing character, we sinners, desire now to approach thy mercy seat; imploring thy grace, and blessing thy great and glorious name, for all that goodness in which thou hast been passing before us.

Accept, most gracious God, our repeated thanks for all our public, domestic, and personal blessings and privileges; for that goodness, which has attended us thus far in the journey of life, and of which we have had fresh experience in the abundant supplies, and blessings of the present year. Our fathers have told us of thy works of old, and our eyes have seen thy salvation. Thy mercy, O Lord! endures for ever.

But we render special thanks to thee, Father of mercies, for the unspeakable gift of thy Son to



a guilty world, and that gospel, which brings life and immortality to light. Impress us, we pray thee, with some suitable sense of thy great, numberless, and undeserved favors. O leave us not to abuse all these precious privileges, and pervert them to our aggravated destruction ; leave us not to dishonor our Almighty friend and benefactor. May such a deep sense of thy rich grace impress our hearts, as shall quicken us to duty, and restrain us from every thing offensive to thee.

By the great goodness of God to us ; most unworthy sinners, may we be disposed to be merciful, as our Father in heaven is merciful ; may we love to do good ; be ready to distribute, willing to communicate, and disposed to forgive our enemies. We humbly implore the continuance of thy favor and kindness ; mercifully do away our sins, and let them not awaken thy just wrath. Foolishness is bound up in our hearts, and we are bent to backslide ; but with thee there is forgiveness. O forgive all our sins, and the sins of our land ; and let wisdom, and knowledge, be the stability of our times, and the fear of the Lord our treasure.

Continue to be the Guardian, and Benefactor of our land ; not in the wisdom of man, or an arm of flesh, but in the Lord of hosts we would put our trust. Continue our peace, and increase our prosperity ; scatter every dark cloud which hangs over us ; bless all in places of public trust ; make them faithful, and may they receive, from the Fountain of Light, all needful direction. May agriculture, commerce, and useful

arts flourish among us ; and all institutions for promoting knowledge, enjoy thy gracious smiles. Be with those that go down to the sea in ships ; may they behold the works of the Lord there, and his wonders in the deep, and be brought to their desired haven.

Order the seasons in mercy to us ; and may we be preserved through the inclemencies of the approaching winter.

Bless this state ; may all in the executive, legislative and judicial departments see, and pursue our true interests, and be made ministers of God for good ; and we pray, that a spirit of order, industry, frugality, temperance, and submission to lawful authority, may prevail among us. O God, may the richer blessings of thy grace be ours ; teach transgressors thy ways, and let the children of Zion be glad in their King. Dispose thy people to enquire after thee, and hear those that pray for Jerusalem's peace. O give thy Son, the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession : and may the time speedily come, when they shall no longer hurt or destroy, in all thy holy mountain.

Dwell in this, and all our towns ; supply destitute flocks with pastors after thine own heart, and send forth faithful laborers into thy vineyard. May the candle of the Lord ever shine around our dwellings, and let each of us see the salvation of God. Accept, most gracious God, our thanks for what of thy goodness we have this day experienced ; for the many bounties of thy providence, and the joyful occasion, and op-

portunity we have had to unite with thy people, in public ascriptions of praise. Bless these means to awaken our hearts to gratitude ; accept our poor attempts to serve thee ; and may we live to the glory of our Benefactor. We beg thy care, and protection, this night. Give us the rest of thy beloved. May goodness, and mercy, follow us all the days of our lives ; and prepare us to join in the new song of thy redeemed in heaven ; ascribing to the Father, Son, and Spirit, glory without end. AMEN.



*A Prayer for the Morning of a Public Fast.*

HOLY, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, we adore thee, as the sovereign Lord, and proprietor of the universe, by whom all things in heaven and earth were created, and constantly upheld and supported. We, Lord, are thy creatures, and acknowledge ourselves under infinite, and unceasing obligations, to love, serve and obey thee. All we have is thine, and all we can render to thee, is our most reasonable service. Thy law is holy, just, and good, and in all thou requirest, thou hast united our duty and happiness.

But, Lord, we acknowledge, that we have most wickedly, and ungratefully departed from thee ; and that God, in whose hand our breath is, and whose are all our ways, we have not glorified. O God, we confess ourselves utterly vile, and altogether unclean, in thy sight. All the

faculties of our souls have become polluted, by sin; our understandings are dark; our wills rebellious, and our affections so depraved, that we have loved and served the creature more than the Creator. The carnal mind, which naturally reigns within us, is enmity to God; and this corrupt fountain has defiled all our actions. We have hated instruction, and despised reproof; have abused thy goodness, and disregarded thy warnings, and by our unthankfulness, incorrigibleness, and disobedience, are continually provoking thee to come against us in thy wrath. If thou shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with thee there is forgiveness, and we have thy most gracious promise, that he who confesseth and forsaketh his sin, shall find mercy. O God, we now desire to take hold of thy merciful encouragement; acknowledging ourselves without excuse, and hating and renouncing our evil thoughts and ways, we would cast ourselves helpless and guilty upon the arms of thy mercy; begging, that for the sake of thy Son, thou wouldest blot out our transgressions, and not enter into thy judgment with us.

As this day is set apart for fasting, humiliation and prayer, we beg that God would pour on us, and all his people, a spirit of grace and supplication, of repentance, and reformation. Give us an affecting sight of the hatefulness of sin; may we rend our hearts, and not our garments, and break off our sins, by working righteousness, that we may keep such a fast as the Lord shall choose. Prepare us for the blessings of true penitents, and enable all thy people to bring forth

fruits, meet for repentance, by forsaking the ways of sin. Cause the wickedness of the wicked to come to an end ; may the Redeemer come to Zion, and turn away ungodliness from Jacob, and let the converts of righteousness be greatly multiplied. Withdraw not, we beseech thee, the tokens of thy favor from the land of our nativity ; remove the judgments we feel ; preserve us from those we justly fear ; may the mercies we enjoy be continued, and those we need be bestowed. Rule in the hearts of our rulers ; counsel our counsellors, and give our senators wisdom. Preserve us from internal disorder, and from foreign injury and invasion. Bless us when we go out, and when we come in ; may the voice of health and rejoicing be heard in all our habitations : Open thy bountiful hand, and supply the wants of thy numerous offspring, whose eyes are waiting on thee for the supplies of another year, Cause the earth to bring forth grass for cattle and herb for the service of man. Continue thy blessed gospel among us ; and may every heart welcome the joyful sound. Fill the world with thy glory, and the rich favor of thy grace.

Will God accept our thanks, for all the public and private blessings, bestowed on such unworthy creatures. We thank thee for the quiet and refreshing rest of the past night, and the light and comforts of this morning ; may we this day be directed, and preserved in all our ways. Prepare us for the duties of thy public worship ; prepare a word for our hearts, and our hearts to receive it. May we, and thy people, present be-

fore God the oblation of a broken and contrite heart ; and may it be our concern, not to appear unto men to fast, but to him who seeth in secret.

Without any merit or worthiness of our own, we offer these our requests, through the mediation of our exalted High Priest, to whom, with the Father, and Holy Spirit, be equal honors, and everlasting praises. AMEN.

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*A Prayer for the Evening of a Public Fast.*

O God, thou art a great God, and a great King above all Gods. The heavens, even the heavens are thine, and all their hosts ; the earth is thine, and the fulness thereof ; the world and they who dwell therein. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, neither shall evil dwell with thee ; thou art also good, and doest good, delighting in mercy. We, Lord, are witnesses and monuments of thy goodness, for it is of thy mercy, that we are not consumed. It is infinite mercy, which gives us leave to pray, and to hope for thy forgiveness. Blessed be God, for that blood, which cleanseth from all sin ; for that perfect righteousness, which justifieth the ungodly. As sinners, we now present ourselves before thee, pleading for mercy, and forgiving grace. We desire to forsake every false refuge, and to lay open our guilt, and wretchedness.

Thou, O God, hast been a constant witness of all the follies of our youth, and the sins of our riper years. How great has been the pride, the

unbelief, and the obstinacy of our hearts? We have been lovers of pleasure, more than lovers of God. We have said to the gold, thou art our hope, and to the fine gold, thou art our confidence. We have been walking in the way of our own hearts, and in the sight of our own eyes, while we have been practically saying to God, depart from us, for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.

We confess, that this, our wickedness, has been aggravated, by all the counsels and warnings, the light and love, the vows and promises, against which we have sinned.

Under this load of guilt, we now make our humble flight to thy throne of mercy, seeking pardon, through the blood of atonement.

To thee, O God, would we also bring our wretched hearts, begging thee to form them anew, by thy Holy Spirit. May we turn with abhorrence from all sin; let nothing appear small by which God is offended, or the soul destroyed; and may we, and all thy people, prove the sincerity of our repentance, by trying our hearts and ways, and turning unto the Lord. O, that thoughtless multitudes might have their attention awakened, to inquire, what they shall do to be saved; and may those who are striving against sin, never be weary, nor faint in their minds. Succeed a preached gospel; may it every where be attended with the demonstration of the Spirit, and with power.

Let glory dwell in our land; preserve our national rights, and may the civil and religious privileges which we enjoy, be transmitted to our



posterity. Make our rulers public benefactors, let not the things of our political peace be ever hidden from their eyes; and may we feel the importance of entrusting our national concerns to those who fear God, and hate covetousness. Bless our colleges and literary institutions; may streams flow from these fountains, which shall make glad the city of our God. Smile upon us, with respect to the seasons; give us a suitable seed time, and a plentiful harvest; favor us with the former and latter rains; preserve us from destructive frosts, devouring insects, blasting mildew, and all the ministers of divine wrath. Preserve us from sickness and pestilential diseases.

May things ever go well with us; dispose thy people to the practice of all those duties on which the welfare of society depends; restrain a spirit of faction and division; subdue that selfishness which produces perilous times; and may that righteousness which exalteth a nation, be promoted.

Regard our wretched world with pity: be the defender of the righteous cause, and in thee may the helpless find an Almighty friend. Still the commotions of the earth, and carry headlong the counsels of those who are taking counsel against the Lord, or the welfare of society.

Accept our thanks for the outward mercies, and religious privileges, we have this day enjoyed. Our prayers need pardon, and our tears, the blood of sprinkling, to wash them. Seal instruction to our hearts; impress us with a deeper sense of the evil and destructive nature of

sin ; and as we have confessed, so help us to forsake sin. Will God bless, and build up our family ; whatever we are denied of present things, deny us not an interest in thy favor, which is better than life. May we lie down this night, pardoned and accepted ; sleep in safety, awake in peace ; and in thy due time, admit us to dwell in thy presence, where is fulness of joy, and at thy right hand, where are pleasures for ever, there to render those ceaseless praises, which are due to the King Eternal, Immortal and invisible, to whom be honor, and glory, for ever. AMEN.



### *A Morning Prayer for a School.*

Our Father in heaven, we thy creatures, desire now to draw near unto thee, and worship before the Lord, our Maker. Thou, O God, hast made us, and in thy sovereign goodness hast made us wiser than the beasts of the field, or the fowls of heaven, hast given us minds to know, love and enjoy thee, whose favor is life. To thee, O God, we are indebted for all we possess. We live in thy world ; we breathe thy air ; and are fed at thy table ; and we confess it to be our duty, and happiness, to love and serve thee, with all our hearts ; and to love one another as children of the same Father, and members of the same family. But we, Lord, have sinned, and done very wickedly ; foolishness is bound up in our hearts. Thou hast called, but we have re-

fused ; thou hath stretched out thy hand, but we have not regarded, but have set at nought thy counsel, and would not hearken to thy reproof. We now beg thee, O God, whose glory it is to forgive sin, to forgive us all our sins, and may they not rise against us in the judgment to condemn us. We thank thee, that Jesus Christ came to suffer and die for sinners, and that he is exalted to be a Prince and a Savior, to give repentance to Israel and remission of sins. Pardon us for his sake. May we love our blessed Redeemer, and live henceforth not to ourselves, but to him who died for us. Make us like him who was the chief among ten thousands, and altogether lovely. May we be meek, and lowly, and true, and kind as the Son of God was ; like him, may we be disposed to help all who are in distress, and to be continually employed in doing good. Bless each of us, O God, and all our friends and benefactors.

Bless the youth here before thee ; by the means they enjoy, may they have their minds enlightened, and receive that instruction, which is needful to fit them for every service to which they shall be called. Turn off their minds from beholding vanity ; may they learn to love and serve the Lord, and to feel the importance of their time and privileges. Help them to flee youthful lusts, which war against the soul, and to take heed to their ways according to thy word. May they so employ the precious seed time they now possess, that they may secure a glorious harvest of present comfort and future glory.

We acknowledge thy good providence, which has preserved us another night. We have slept in safety, and awoke in peace, for thou, Lord, hast sustained us. Will God be this day our guide and guard ; keep us from all evil, but especially from sin. In dependence on thy grace, may it be our resolution that our hearts shall not reproach us so long as we live ; and may we die in peace, and fall asleep in Jesus ; to whom, with thee, the Father, and thine Eternal Spirit, be glory for ever. AMEN.



*An Evening Prayer for a School.*

INCOMPREHENSIBLY great and ever glorious God, we adore thee as a Being, Infinite, Eternal and Unchangeable. Thou canst do whatever thou pleasest. Thou seest at once all things which have been, are now or will be. Thy goodness is over all thy works. Thou feedest the ravens when they cry, and givest to every beast his meat. It is thy hand, great Parent of good, which spreadest our table, and fillest our cup ; and though we are continually provoking thee, by our sins to destroy us, still thou art doing us good, and waiting to be gracious. We thank thee, that another day is added to our forfeited lives ; hear us, O God, while we ask thy continued care ; keep us this night, and in the defenceless hours of sleep, spread over us thy protecting wing. May we lie down and rise up with

solemnizing thoughts of God who always surrounds us with his presence.

Look with a favorable regard upon the youth that attend here, for the purposes of instruction ; in this important part of their existence, may they attain that knowledge, and acquire those principles of conduct, which shall render them blessings to their friends and society, and ornaments to religion. Bless the families of which they are severally members ; and may they who are entrusted with their education, feel the importance of bringing them up in the way in which they should go, that when they are old they may not depart from it. Early possess their hearts by thy heavenly grace ; may they be sober, just, holy, temperate in all things ; obedient to their parents ; and may they return, with grateful love, the kindness of those who have supported and protected their infant days. Lead them not into temptation, but deliver them from evil. May they seek the Lord while he is to be found, and call upon him, while he is near. Bless our fellow men whom thou hast taught us to love. Bless our native country, and make this the glory of all lands. May the rising generation be a generation to thy praise.

Make us all thy children ; fit us to serve thee here, and to enjoy thee for ever ; which we humbly beg, through the infinite merits of the Divine Redeemer ; to whom, with the Father of mercies, and Spirit of truth, be rendered all honor, glory and praise, world without end. AMEN.

*A Prayer at the beginning of any Sickness, which may be also used during its continuance.*

O ALMIGHTY God and merciful Father, whose never-failing providence ordereth all things both in heaven and earth ; I desire, with the profoundest reverence, to humble myself before thee, acknowledging that thou, even in thy severest dispensations, hast kind intentions and gracious designs towards us ; behold me, thy poor servant, upon whom thou hast been pleased to lay thine afflicting hand ; sanctify, I beseech thee, this thy fatherly correction to me, and grant that I may receive it with all the patience and submission of a dutiful child. Suffer me not, O Lord, to murmur or repine under any dispensations of thy providence ; but let all that is afflicting to me be a means to wean me from the world, to bring me nearer to thyself, and to purge away all that dross and defilement which my soul has contracted in this sinful life. I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou of thy goodness hast caused me to be troubled ; O give me such a measure of grace and patience, as may enable me cheerfully and willingly to submit my will to thine.

I acknowledge, O Lord, that I have justly deserved to be severely dealt with by thee : for notwithstanding all the gentle methods which thou hast used towards me, I have not loved thee as I ought to do ; but in the days of health and prosperity have forgotten thee, my God, and turned aside after vanity and folly ; but, O mer-

ciful Father, let not my sins provoke thee to turn away thy face from me thy servant, now seeking unto thee in this time of my trouble ; shut not up the bowels of thy tender compassions from me : but for the merits and intercession of thy beloved Son, pardon all my sins, the proper causes of all my sorrows, and vouchsafe, I beseech thee, for his sake, to be reconciled unto me. O suffer me not to sink under the heavy load and burden of my transgressions, but stretch forth thy helping hand to save and deliver me, and say unto my soul, I am thy salvation.

O Lord, support me under all my pains, weaknesses, and infirmities ; strengthen my faith, enlarge my hopes, increase my charity, and perfect my repentance. Make thou my bed in my sickness, and lay not more upon me than thou wilt enable me to bear ; give a blessing to the means that shall be used for my recovery ; and if it be thy good pleasure, restore me to my former health, that I may lead the residue of my life in thy fear and to thy glory ; but if thou hast determined that this sickness shall be unto death, grant, O merciful Father, that the more the outward man decayeth, so much the more I may find the inner man strengthened and renewed with thy grace and Holy Spirit. O give me grace so to take thy visitation, that after this painful life is ended, I may dwell with thee in life everlasting, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ my dear and only Savior. AMEN.

*Our Father, &c.*



*A Prayer for Trust in God in Sickness.*

O ALMIGHTY God, our only help in time of trouble, look with pity and compassion upon me, now under thy afflicting hand. Be thou my stay and confidence under all my sorrows and afflictions, and suffer me not to sink under the weight of them through any dejections or faintness of spirit.

Give me such an entire trust and confidence in thy mercy, through the merits of my dear Redeemer, that I may cast all my care upon thee, and with cheerfulness commit myself into thy hands, assuredly believing that all things shall work together for good to them that love thee; and, O Lord, grant that I may be found such an one, as through thy great mercy may be entitled to the benefit of thy gracious promises. Make me willing and ready to yield to thy wisdom, and to prefer thy will before my own; to be contented to bear what thou pleasest, and to be eased of my burden in thy time, which is always best. But, O Lord, however thou art pleased to deal with my body, yet spare my soul, I beseech thee, and deliver it from the bitter pains of eternal death. O take me not out of this world, till thou art reconciled unto me, and hast fitted me, in some measure, for thy heavenly kingdom. Grant, O Lord, that whether I live, I may live unto thee; or whether I die, I may die unto thee; so that living and dying I may be thine, through Jesus Christ, my ever blessed Savior and Redeemer. AMEN.

*A Prayer after Recovery from Sickness.*

O MOST mighty God and merciful Father, I, thy unworthy servant, whom thou hast raised up from a dangerous sickness, do now present myself before thee, acknowledging it to be owing to thy goodness alone, that I am now alive, and have once more an opportunity of offering up my prayers and praises at the throne of grace. Thou, O Lord, hast chastened me and corrected me, but hast not given me over unto death: blessed therefore be that Divine Wisdom, which saw this late affliction seasonable. Blessed be that tender compassion, which, in the midst of wrath, remembered mercy; which made all my bed in my sickness, passed by my impatience and many infirmities, and inclined a willing ear unto my supplications, when I cried unto thee in the time of my distress: blessed be the powerful influence of that grace, which disposed my heart to consideration and repentance. But, above all, blessed for ever be that power and goodness, which, by sparing me, when I had deserved to be cut off, has now given me an opportunity of rectifying the errors of my past life, and reforming whatever is amiss in me.

O Lord, let not this goodness of thine, nor my own serious purpose of better obedience, ever slip out of my mind; but preserve in me a constant, tender sense of the great obligations I lie under of serving thee faithfully all my days; make me every day more and more zealous in promoting thy glory, and the good of my brethren; in studying to please thee better than I

have ever yet done ; and in devoting the remainder of that life, which thou hast given me, to the service of thee, my gracious Benefactor.

I humbly offer and present unto thee my soul and body, which thou hast so mercifully preserved, beseeching thee to take them into thy custody. O let not the return of my health be accompanied with a return to my former sins and follies ; but let the experience I have had, how little any thing will profit in the time of trouble, besides a good conscience, so effectually convince me of the necessity of a good life, so powerfully persuade me to the practice of religion, that I may make it the great study and endeavor, the constant business and employment of my whole life, to love, adore, and serve thee, and in all things to become such as thou wouldst have me to be.

But, O Lord, forasmuch as without thee I am not able to please thee, mercifully grant unto me such a measure of thy grace, as may enable me to amend whatever has been amiss in the temper and disposition of my mind, or in any of the actions of my life. Oh ! let me never more be led away by the deceitful promises of the world, the flesh, or the devil ; but grant, O my God, that my hopes and affections may be unalterably fixed upon that eternal and unchangeable happiness, which thou hast prepared for them that love thee. Let the thoughts and expectations of death and judgment be so constantly, so powerfully present to my soul, as effectually to work upon my mind, and to bring forth in me the fruits of a holy and religious life. Let the

pains and troubles I have lately felt, inspire me with a tender pity and compassion for the miseries and calamities of others, and make me ready, upon all occasions, to contribute what I can to the wants and necessities of my brethren: and oh! let those talents which thou hast afresh committed to my trust, be so faithfully improved for thy glory, the good of others, and the benefit of my own soul, that whenever thou shalt call me to give an account of my stewardship, I may not be condemned as an unprofitable servant, but may be found such an one as thou shalt then pronounce faithful, and bid to enter into the joy of my Lord.

Grant this, O merciful Father, through the merits, and for the sake of thy dear Son Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with thee, and the ever blessed Spirit, be ascribed, as is most due, by me, and every creature, all honor, glory, power, dominion, thanksgiving, and praise, throughout all ages. AMEN.

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*A Prayer to be used by one who is going a Journey, which may be added to the usual Devotions.*

O God, who art alike present in all places, and preservest man and beast; blessed be thy name for the knowledge thou hast given me of thy wise and merciful providence, who makest thy angels ministering spirits for them that shall be heirs of salvation.

I commit my soul and body to thy protection, who art the defender of all them that put their trust in thee. To thee, O Lord, do I commit myself and all that belongs to me; I entirely depend on thy goodness to be with me, and prosper me in the way that I am going. Give thy holy angels charge of me, and defend me from all thieves and robbers, and from all casualties and evil accidents, if it be thy blessed will; and, I beseech thee more especially to accompany me with the presence of thy Holy Spirit, to preserve my soul in safety, from all evil thoughts, desires, or passions, that may any way betray me in word or deed, to offend thy Divine Majesty. Deliver me from the danger of any evil company into which I may fall; that I may not frame myself to the manners of profane persons, but by a pious and discreet behavior, rather reprove them; and give me grace thankfully to embrace the company of those who are good, if I be blessed with it; that I may rejoice in their society, and improve it to my increase in wisdom, and pious affections towards thee. Bless and defend this habitation which I am now leaving, and all remaining in it; that whatever distance we may be from one another, we may all live and walk in the same spirit of faith, and love, and holiness. Grant me a happy meeting again with my friends and relations, if it be thy good will and pleasure; but howsoever thou shall think fit to dispose of us in this world, bring us in the end of our pilgrimage, into that blessed rest which thou hast prepared for thy faithful servants, through Jesus Christ. AMEN.

*A Thanksgiving after a return from a Journey.*

BLESSED be thy name, O God, who hast protected and preserved me from many perils and dangers in the journey I have lately taken. Thou hast been a covering to me night and day. in every place where I have been, from I know not how many dangers ; and hast at last brought me home in peace and safety to my relations and friends, whom thou hast protected, and their dwellings, from all evil accidents.

To thy good providence I wholly owe it ; and I desire to be duly thankful for these and all other thy great mercies and deliverances, who hath dealt so bountifully with me.

Endue me, O God of all grace, with a more serious spirit, often reflecting and meditating upon thee, and upon thy benefits both to my soul and body, for this life and that which is to come ; that I may not be taught the value and number of thy blessings, by being deprived of them ; but, in their constant use and enjoyment, may praise thy infinite goodness and mercy, with sensible love to thee, and delight in doing thy will.

Bless all others, I beseech thee, that desire the same mercy of which thou hast made me a partaker. Receive them into thy protection ; conduct them in safety to the end of their journey ; make them ever mindful of thy loving-kindness ; and careful to remember, that every new benefit is a new obligation to better obedience ; for thy mercy's sake in Christ Jesus. AMEN.

*A Prayer for one that deliberates about Marriage.*

O God, the Creator and Preserver of mankind, who hast instituted the holy state of matrimony as the only way to continue the world, and for the comfort of man's life, under the various evils, cares, and labors of it, by the mutual society and help that married persons ought to have one for the other, both in prosperity and adversity, and for the good of human society, by preventing many confusions, and promoting concord therein: grant that now I have thoughts of entering into this state, I may so seriously consider the chief end of its institution, as not to enter into the same unadvisedly, lightly, or wantonly to satisfy my carnal lust or appetites; but reverently, discreetly, advisedly, soberly, and in the fear of God.

Let me seriously weigh and consider beforehand, the solemn vow and promise I shall then make, so as never to entertain any thoughts of it, without a sincere purpose of heart, and a firm resolution of mind to perform the same.

Let me consider, that if I marry, my future happiness or misery of life will very much depend on the choice I make; that with whomsoever I marry, I venture the being happy or unhappy all my days; and that I shall be obliged by thy holy laws, to love my partner, and no other till death.

Let not a wild and sensual, a heedless and inordinate spirit, rule me in this momentous change of life.



*This is to be used by a person under the care of parents or guardians.*

[And since I am young and under the care and direction of others, as I expect thy blessing, let me listen to their advice and better judgment in this matter.]

Let reason and religion, prudence and consideration, and, above all, thy good providence, direct my choice, and let my chief ends be those for which matrimony was ordained.

Let me chiefly aim at religion and virtue, wisdom and discretion, and such other good qualities and dispositions in a partner, as are most likely to last and continue, and not such only as please for a time, and will bear little satisfactory reflection afterwards.

O Lord, the Sovereign and wise Disposer of all things ! grant I may duly consider that a man's heart deviseth a way, and proposeth a design to make his life easy and happy : Yet thou, O Lord, directest his steps, and determinest the event, and givest such issues as it pleaseth thee, and when thou seest fit, many times quite contrary to what he intended or persuaded himself of ; I know the way of man is not in himself ; it is not in man that walketh, to direct his own steps.

Let me, therefore, in all my ways, acknowledge thee, that thou mayest vouchsafe to direct my paths : let me not trust to my own prudence, care, skill, or any human aid : but let me seek to engage thy good providence on my behalf, and only regard to do my own duty ; because the events are thine, and thou canst turn the

fairest prospects of happiness to my punishment and misery : and far be it from me, O God, to endeavor to rescue them out of thy hand, by fraud or falsehood, or by using any dishonest or unworthy means to bring this or any other purpose about ; always remembering, that *he that walketh uprightly, walketh surely*. And let me wait thy time, and think that always best ; for thou only knowest what things are joined to, and are the consequences of other, and what is fittest for me, and for my greatest happiness ; and hast promised that all things shall work together for good to those that love thee : in confidence hereof, let me rest satisfied with that state and condition (whatever it be) that thou in thy wisdom and goodness shalt order me. O Lord, vouchsafe to hear my prayers, which I offer through the mediation of Jesus Christ my Savior. AMEN.



*A Prayer for a Person under Affliction.*

O MOST gracious God, who dost not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men ; I flee unto thee for comfort and support under the troubles thou hast laid upon me : I know assuredly, that this is thy hand, and that thou, Lord, hast done it. I acknowledge thy judgments are right, that thou of very faithfulness hast caused me to be troubled, and that my sins have deserved more grievous punishments than I now suffer. I am fully convinced, that the events of this life are not left to chance or uncertainty,

but are all under the steady and wise disposal of thy good providence.

To thee, therefore, O my God, do I direct my supplications : beseeching thee, O gracious God, who hast a tender love for all thy creatures, and more especially for thy faithful servants who repose all their hope and confidence in thy mercy, to have pity upon me, and to deal with me not according to my sins, but after thine own great mercy. Pardon, O Lord, all my past sins ; restore me to peace and favor with thee ; consider my weakness, and let not my troubles be more heavy or lasting than what thou seest profitable and necessary for the good of my soul.

Make me truly and deeply sensible of my condition, that I may see the rod, and who hath appointed it ; that I may be truly sensible of the evil of sin, as well as feel the smart of punishment. Humble me under thy corrections ; awaken me thereby to a more conscientious and zealous performance of my duty, to a sense of my spiritual wants, to a hatred of every thing that is displeasing in thy sight ; and so sanctify my present affliction, that by the help of thy good Spirit it may bring forth in me all the graces and virtues of a Christian life, and accomplish the end for which it was sent.

Let the experience of thy love and favor towards me, throughout the whole course of my life past, teach me to resign myself entirely to thee ; to choose thee for my only support and comfort ; to rely steadfastly on all thy promises, and to wait with patience till thou shalt see fit to deliver me.

Direct and enable me to use all proper and honest means for freeing myself from my present troubles ; but however grievous they may prove, O let me not dare to do any fraud or injustice, or to cast off my dependence on thee, by calling in the assistance of any of the powers of darkness for my relief.

And if, for reasons best known to thine infinite wisdom, thou shalt see fit to continue this affliction to me, thy blessed will be done : enable me patiently to bear, and contentedly to submit to the dispensations of thy good providence, how contrary soever to flesh and blood.

Suppress in me all murmuring or repining thoughts : remove from me all inclinations and aversions, but such as agree with those of the blessed Jesus : regulate my affections and desires, and confine them to such objects only as are well pleasing in thy sight. Thou knowest the surest way of making me happy : thou art infinite in wisdom, loving-kindness, and mercy ; therefore let thy blessed will in every thing be my choice and satisfaction. I humbly submit to thy fatherly discipline ; for thou correctest in mercy and for my profit. If, therefore, thou takest not away thy rod, yet take away thy anger. Let me see a fatherly affection in all thy chastisements ; and raise in my soul an ardent love and desire after thee, which may fill me with an inward satisfaction, with peace of conscience, and joy in the Holy Ghost. Support and comfort me under all my troubles ; direct and counsel me in all difficulties ; carry me through all trials and temptations ; and, in thy good time,

take thy afflicting hand from me ; and grant that these light afflictions, which (in comparison) are but for a moment, may work for me an exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Hear me, O Lord, for thy mercy's sake, and for the sake of thy Son Jesus, our only Mediator and Advocate. AMEN.

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*A Prayer for a meek and quiet Spirit.*

O BLESSED Lord God, thou most compassionate lover of souls, look with thy tenderest pity upon me, a weak and frail creature, who am encompassed about with many and great infirmities ; my nature is corrupt, my passions are strong and violent, and so prone am I to peevishness and anger, that almost every slight provocation disorders my mind, and makes me forward and impatient, and many times (alas ! with sorrow I confess it) I have been hurried away into foolish and unreasonable passions.

O Lord, I lament and bewail this wretched corruption of my nature, humbly beseeching thee, for the sake and merits of my blessed Savior, to pardon and forgive all that sin and folly into which it has betrayed me ; and I beg of thee, O merciful Father, to give me a meek and quiet spirit, a patient and forgiving temper, an humble, charitable, and Christian disposition ; that my mind may at all times be quiet and easy, my carriage gentle, kind, and obliging to all men, and the whole conduct and deportment of

my life, such as becomes the servant of the meek and blessed Jesus.

Convince me truly, O Lord, of the great folly of passion and anger; how contrary it is to the spirit of thy most holy religion, which commands us to put away all bitterness, and wrath, and anger; what an enemy it is to our present happiness, and how much it unfits us for the duties which we owe to thee, our neighbor, and ourselves.

Let the example of my blessed Savior be powerfully present to my mind, and inspire me with an humble, charitable, and forgiving temper. Let me consider, with what meekness and patience he endured the contradictions of sinners, and the insults and reproaches of wicked and unreasonable men; that, like him, I may be meek and lowly in heart, and find that rest unto my soul, which he has promised to those that will be taught of him.

O my God, it is my sincere desire, and it shall be the hearty endeavor of my life, to be free from the bondage and dominion of sin; but, alas! I am a weak and feeble creature: I find a law in my members warring against the law of my mind, which, without the assistance of thy Holy Spirit, will bring me into captivity to the law of sin: O let the mighty power of thy grace strengthen my feeble wishes and endeavors, and enable me to conquer my most inveterate habits: let the sweet and gentle influences of thy blessed Spirit calm the passions, and compose the storms and disorders of my soul: and, O do

thou save me from the dangers of this troublesome and tempestuous life.

Root out of my heart, O merciful God, all pride and vanity, all malice, hatred, and ill-will, and give me a low and humble opinion of myself, that the sense of my own unworthiness, and of the many offences which I have been guilty of towards thee, may move me to pity the weaknesses and infirmities of others, and to forgive the greatest injuries and provocations which I shall meet with ; remembering how much more I stand in need of pity and forgiveness at thy hand.

Take away from me, O Lord, the spirit of this world, and fill me with that spirit of love and charity, that suffereth long, and is kind ; that beareth all things, and is not easily provoked ; that being full of that peace of God, which passes all understanding, I may live with comfort and die with joy, and may hereafter dwell in those peaceful regions of everlasting bliss, where thou, O blessed Jesus, who art the Prince of Peace, livest and reignest with the Father, and the holy Spirit, one God, world without end:  
AMEN.



*A Prayer in stormy and tempestuous Weather ;  
as great Thunder, Lightning, &c.*

O GREAT and glorious God, who makest the thunder, and causest the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth ; thou sendest forth thy corr-



mandment upon the earth, and thy word runneth very swiftly ; thou makest lightnings for the rain, and bringest the wind out of thy treasures. Thou givest snow like wool, thou scatterest the hoar-frost like ashes, and casteth forth thy ice like morsels. Fire and hail, snow and vapors, and the stormy wind, fulfil thy word. How wonderful art thou in thy works, and terrible in thy doings towards the children of men !

O deliver us from our just fears and uneasy apprehensions, and in mercy cause the threatening destruction to pass over us. Grant that the present storm may not be a messenger of thy judgment, and an executioner of thy wrath only, but a means to cool, and refresh, and cleanse the air, and make the earth fruitful. O shut not thy merciful ear to our prayers, but save and deliver us for thy mercy's sake, who now apply to thee in this time of our distress.

We know, O Lord, that thy judgments are just, and that our sins have deserved much greater punishments than those we now fear ; for we have broken thy covenant, disobeyed thy commandments, and provoked thee to be angry with us ; but we are heartily sorry for our offences ; we repent and turn to thee ; do thou, O God, increase our repentance ; O let that full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, which thy beloved Son offered up upon the cross, atone and make satisfaction for our sins.

Suffer us not, O Lord, to forget thee ; but awaken us out of all carnal security, and from the sleep and death of sin. Let not the impressions of thy power which the noise and shaking

of the impending storm hath made upon us, soon wear off. And since the dreadful commotions it occasions are now so terrible, help us to consider how much more astonishing it will be to see the heavens on fire, and the elements melt with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein be burnt up. Do thou so effectually touch our hearts, and incline our will by the powerful operations of thy Spirit, that no excuses may prevail with us to defer our preparations against that time, nor delay to provide a place of retreat and security.

Let such thoughts sink deep into our minds, that we may valiantly fight under the Captain of our salvation, Christ Jesus, and bravely resist and conquer all the temptations and allurements of the world, the flesh and the devil.

Let them deter us from every evil work, and make us effectually to consider what manner of persons we ought to be in all holy conversation and godliness. Grant this, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. AMEN.



### *A Prayer for one convinced of Sin.*

GOD be merciful to me a sinner : a sinner beyond expression ! How shall I lift up mine eyes towards thee, O thou most holy, or take thy name within my polluted lips ! O Lord, thou needest not my confession to inform thee, for thine eye hath been ever upon my path : and of the things

that have come into my mind, thou hast known every one of them. The vanity of my childhood, the folly of my youth, the obstinacy and rebellion of my riper years, are all written in thy book. Alas! thou knowest I was conceived in sin, and have lived in sin ever since I was born. All thy commandments have I broken, all thy mercies have I abused, trifled with thy patience, resisted thy Spirit, and rejected thy gospel, times without number.

So foolish and ignorant, so stupid and hardened, and unthankful have I been; a transgressor from the womb: such has been my life. What then must my heart be, the foundation from whence all these streams of bitterness have flowed? O Lord, thou hast said it, and I cannot deny it, my heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. I am wholly defiled. There is no sound part in me. I am full of pride and ignorance, unbelief and self-will: my boasted strength is weakness, and my best righteousness as an unclean thing before thee. I owe thee ten thousand talents, but have nothing to pay. I am bound to a perfect obedience, but I cannot perform. O wretched man, who shall deliver me? Wherewithal shall I come before the most high God? Will sighs, or tears, or promises, answer the demands of thy law, satisfy thy justice, and avert thy righteous anger? or where shall I hide my guilty head? O Lord, my flesh trembleth, my heart faileth before thee. I am afraid of thy judgments; I have deserved them all; and shouldst thou now pour forth thy wrath upon me unto the uttermost, even in the

midst of my sufferings I must own thy justice. Shouldst thou shut out my prayers, and say, Depart, thou cursed, into everlasting fire ; I must be dumb. But, O Lord, though I have thus destroyed myself, is there no help, no hope in thee ? Hast thou not revealed thyself in thy word as “ the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin ? ” and hast thou not commended thy love to poor lost sinners, in giving thine only Son to be the propitiation for sin ? hath not thy kind providence put thy gospel into my hands, to prevent my sinking into despair ? thou hast been pleased to inform me of the sinless life and meritorious death of thy only begotten Son, of the grace of his heart to the chief of sinners, and the intercession he ever lives to make for the worst that come to thee by him. And though it is amongst my most abominable sins, and the cause of them, that I so long slighted this record of thy Son, I now feel and see, that, except he saves me, I must undoubtedly perish for ever. All that believe in him he will save ; and I am taught in thy word that faith is thy gift, and of thy operation in the soul. O bestow and work in me the work of faith with power, I beseech thee, unworthy as I am. Enable me to behold the suffering, wounded Lamb of God, who poured forth his soul an offering for transgressors. Help me to believe that he has his own self bore my sins on his own body on the tree ; that he has delivered me from the curse of the law, being made a curse for me. Let me feel the powerful efficacy of that blood

which cleanseth from all sin. O let that Spirit, which Jesus is exalted to bestow, testify of him to me, and glorify him in my eyes, that my troubled conscience may enjoy peace, and my soul find rest in Christ. Gird me with strength for thy blessed service, and redeem me by thy mighty grace from the power of all iniquity, from the hands of all my enemies, that I may live devoted to thee for ever. O spare me, good Lord, that I may be a monument of the riches of thy mercy, and an instrument of spreading thy praise, who art just, and yet the Justifier of the sinner and the ungodly, through him whom thou hast held forth to be a propitiation for sin through faith in his blood. AMEN.

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*A Prayer for the Increase of Faith in Christ.*

ENLARGE, I beseech thee, O Lord my God, my narrow heart to receive thy precious promises in all their power and fulness. If the faint hope I already have, that thou art my reconciled Father, was not founded upon thy own faithful word, it would indeed be presumption to ask of thee to confirm it to a full assurance. But since thou hast given to them that believe exceeding great and precious promises, that they might be partakers of a divine nature ; and, by thy immutable word and oath, hast provided that all who fly to Jesus Christ for refuge should have strong consolation, O give me to enjoy the inestimable benefit. Lord, I do believe, help

thou mine unbelief. Adored be thy free grace, for what thou hast already done ; but perfect thy work in me : make me strong in faith, that on all occasions I may give glory to God. Thou hast shewn me something of my own misery. I see, I feel myself a lost creature without thy salvation. Thou hast also given me some understanding to know him that is true, even the almighty Savior ; and every hope of mercy not founded upon him, I renounce. I have cast myself at his feet, and said, Lord, save me, or I perish. I cannot doubt his power ; but O forgive me, that I so often doubt his love and willingness to save such as I am, though I know for this purpose he appeared in the form of a servant, and died upon the cross.

O let me know in whom I have believed, so as no more to doubt, nor be in darkness. Persuade me fully of my own sincerity in intrusting my dearest concerns into the hands of Christ, and of his willingness and ability to keep that which I have committed to him against the great day ; to preserve me from falling, to support me under all my trials, to defend me against all my enemies through this state of warfare, and at length to present me faultless before thy glorious presence with exceeding joy.

Fain would I rely upon thy faithful promises ; fain would I rejoice in hope ; but, alas ! an evil heart of unbelief deprives me of those comforts and privileges provided in the gospel for returning sinners. Let the Sun of righteousness shine forth with healing in his beams, scattering the mists and clouds which hang upon my mind.

Give me grace to seek this blessing by diligently reading thy holy word, by being instant in prayer, constant in the use of all ordinances, and circumspect in all my conversation. Let me not remain ignorant of the devices of Satan, that he may neither terrify me by his malicious suggestions, nor seduce me under the appearance of an angel of light, to depart one step from the rule of thy word, either to do what thou hast not commanded, or to expect what thou hast not promised. But having, my heart, my hope, my eye fixed upon thee alone, may I cheerfully wait for the accomplishment of all the good, both in time and in eternity, promised to them that are in Christ Jesus. I ask this in his name. AMEN.



*A Prayer for a holy and happy death.*

O ETERNAL and holy Jesus, who by thy death hast overcome death, and by thy passion hast taken out its sting, and made it an entrance into everlasting life; help me so to order my conversation in the world, so to govern my spirit, and to lead my life, that I may die with comfort and safety. Let not my death be in any sense unprovided, nor untimely.

Grant that in the time of my sickness, I may not be left without the assistance of a spiritual guide, nor be destitute of the comfort of receiving the blessed sacrament.

Let me finish my course with patience, and resignation of my own will and desires, with a



firm faith, and a well-grounded hope, with a true and sincere repentance, and great degrees of love towards thee, my God, and charity to all the world : and whenever it shall please thee to call me out of this vain and wicked world, grant that I may die the death of the righteous : having first discharged all my obligations of justice, leaving none miserable and unprovided at my departure.

And when the appointed time of my change comes, grant, O Lord, that I may receive it not as a curse, but a deliverance ; as a rest from all my labors, without trouble and without sin. O remember not against me my manifold follies ; but let them all be done away by thy mercy and my blessed Savior's merits.

Support me, O God, in my last agonies ; and as my strength decays, let my pains wear off ; and when my strength fails, let not my faith fail ; even in death, enable me to trust in thee.

Deliver me from all violent disorders of a troubled fancy, and defend me against all delusions of my spiritual enemy ; O let him not be able to disturb or terrify me, or any way prevail against me. And when my death approaches, give thy holy angels charge to stand about me, to guard and receive my poor soul at my departure, and to conduct and carry it to the blessed regions of rest and peace, there to wait for thy coming, and then to partake of the glories of thy kingdom, O eternal and holy Jesus.

*A Prayer for a Prisoner for Debt.*

ALMIGHTY God, just and holy in all the dispensations of thy providence to the children of men : the difficulties and sorrows I labor under in this close confinement, are perfectly known to thee, who dost succor the miserable, and help the friendless. O Lord, I most sorrowfully confess, that I have deserved to suffer much greater punishments, and to feel the severities of thy wrath and displeasure, for I have abused my liberty, and neglected my duty. I have gone contrary to thy holy will, and refused to obey thy wise and righteous laws. I do therefore most humbly desire to submit to thy all-wise disposal, and patiently to wait for that time which thou shalt think best for my enlargement. Let me receive this melancholy restraint as a just punishment for my sins, and grant that others may be warned by my example.

Let me, in these disconsolate circumstances, have the comfort and direction of thy Holy Spirit. Assist me, O God, in calling my ways to remembrance ; in examining into the state of my soul ; in repenting and humbling myself before thee, and in reconciling myself to thee my offended God.

Let me highly prize the holy Scriptures, and follow the divine instructions to be learned from thence. Grant that the promises and threatenings therein contained, may powerfully work in my soul a firm and vigorous resolution of obeying thee.

Wean my mind from all carnal and vain de-

lights; and be thou pleased to suit my desires to the straitness and difficulty of my circumstances, and give me a perfect resignation to thy holy will.

Thou, O God, lovest righteousness and hatest iniquity; and thy holy word maketh it a part of the character of the wicked, to borrow and not to pay again; let it be therefore my study and care to content and satisfy my creditors to the utmost of my power. O keep me from all thoughts of using a prison to cancel my debts, and thereby defraud my creditors of their just due; for I know that by so doing, I shall entail a curse on myself and family: for how can I hope for a blessing from thee, when I make use of sinful methods to provide for myself and them?

Touch the hearts of my creditors with a sense of my misery and trouble, and dispose them to accept of such satisfaction as I am able to make, that I may be discharged out of this miserable confinement, if it be thy good pleasure.

And after my discharge, let thy good providence direct me to such honest ways of getting, and so bless me in my lawful endeavors and undertakings, that I may be in a condition to pay them what shall be behind, and fully satisfy their just demands; knowing, that notwithstanding my discharge, and though I am out of the reach of human laws in this respect, yet my duty and obligation in equity, are still the same. But if thou shalt think fit to deny me this request, do thou, O God, make up their loss in such

way and manner as thou pleasest. Hear me, O God, for the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and advocate. AMEN.

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*A Prayer for our Parents.*

O LORD God, my heavenly Father, I here prostrate myself before thee, to beg thy blessing, grace and mercy, upon my earthly parents. Cast them not away in the time of their old age ; forsake them not when their strength fails them ; but have compassion, Lord, upon their infirmities, and help them in all their weakness. O remember not against them any of their former iniquities ; but according to thy mercy remember them for thy goodness sake in Jesus Christ. O that the true wisdom may be with them, and abundance of thy grace upon them, that their hoary heads may be found in the way of righteousness, and their souls be ever precious in thy sight. O let goodness and mercy follow them all the days of their life : let their last days be their best days ; and the longer they live here in the world, make them still the readier to die, and the fitter to live with thy blessed Self, in the glorious life eternal. O be thou their guide until death ; in death their support and comfort ; and when heart and flesh, and all here shall fail them, O do thou never fail them, but be the strength of their hearts, and their portion for evermore. AMEN.

*A Prayer for a Person under Doubts of the  
Lawfulness of any Action.*

O LORD God, thou art light, and in thee is no darkness at all ; thou art the instructor of the ignorant, the light of those that are in darkness and error, and the fountain of all wisdom, and knowledge, and truth ; I desire above all things to please thee, and to do thy will : and it is a trouble and grief to me to consider, that I have so often acted contrary to it ; O that I may never do so again, that I may never more turn aside to the dark paths of sin and folly ! O give me a wise and understanding spirit, that I may know my duty, and a heart fully bent and determined to practise it.

More particularly, O Lord, I address myself to thee at this time, to enlighten my understanding, and inform my unsettled judgment, how to determine safely in the matter which at present I know not how to act in. Show thou me the way that I should walk in, and leave me not to the weakness of my own reasoning, which, without thy enlightening grace, will lead me into the ways of error and confusion.

Give me, O Lord, I beseech thee, such an honest and upright heart, that nothing in the world may be ever able to seduce me from my integrity. Let not the example of a multitude persuade me to do evil, nor the most powerful allurements of riches, honor, or any other worldly advantage, turn me aside from thy commandments ; but convince me more and more, how little it will profit me to gain the whole world,

and lose my own soul ; that being possessed with an awful fear of thy displeasure, I may never dare to do any thing but what thou approvest, and of which I may be able to give a comfortable account at the great day of the Lord Jesus.

Direct me, O my God, to those means which will inform my understanding, and satisfy my doubts ; that if it should be my misfortune, after all my inquiries, to fall into any unwilling error and mistake, O Lord, lay it not to my charge, nor let it ever provoke thy anger against me.

But, O Lord, if it is thy good pleasure that I should still remain under doubts, give me grace, I beseech thee, to submit to thy will, and to wait with patience, till thou seest fit to instruct me better ; and whatever advantages, as to this world, I may lose by it, yet let me still retain my innocence, and have the comfort and support of a good conscience. Suffer me not to be so regardless of my eternal interest, as for the sake of any temporal advantage to forfeit thy favor, which is better than all the enjoyments of this world.

O Lord, I leave myself in thy hands ; and I most humbly beseech thee to carry me through this and all other difficulties, and bring me to that blessed place of rest and peace, where I shall be out of all temptation and danger of offending thee, and where I shall love and praise thee throughout all ages.

Grant this, O merciful Father, for the sake, and through the merits of my dear Redeemer Jesus Christ. AMEN.

*A Prayer for the Enlargement and Prosperity  
of the Church.*

O God of all grace, who hast called out of this present evil world a chosen generation, to know thy will, to seek thy face, to follow thy ways, and to inherit thy glory; bless all thy people every where, and cause thy face to shine upon them; and so add to their number, that all the ends of the earth may remember themselves, and turn to the Lord, and see the salvation of our God. Call home to thee again thy once only people the Jews; and take the veil off their hearts, that they may see and own their Messias; and let that blood of Christ, which they imprecated upon their heads, to their confusion, light on their hearts, to their conversion. Bring in the fulness of the Gentiles; and give thy Son the heathen for his inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession. O give thy gospel a free and effectual passage throughout the world, that it may be further propagated where it has not yet reached, and the joyful sound may be heard, even where Christ is not yet named; and give such good success to it, where it shines already, that all who have received it, may sincerely obey it; and every one who name the name of Christ, may depart from iniquity; and let their light shine before men, to the glory of our heavenly Father, and to the adorning of thy doctrine and advancing the religion of God our Savior.

Convince and convert both the professed enemies of Christ, and also the enemies of his own



house. Beat down all antichristian powers, both in the false church, where christianity is so foully corrupted; and also beyond the borders of Christendom, where it is openly opposed. O shew unto them all the light of thy truth; that they may know it, as it is in Jesus, and expel their prejudices, together with their darkness; and so bring them to receive thy truth in the love of it, that they may be saved. O that the true religion of our Lord Jesus may prevail powerfully, and gain more proselytes daily throughout the world; that Jerusalem may be the joy and praise of the whole earth; and that we may see the good of it all the days of our life! and O that all errors, both in judgment and practice, the heresies of doctrine, and the ungodliness of life, may be more and more exposed and confounded, and suppressed, till they be utterly abolished! that the wickedness of the wicked (being under rebuke and disgrace) may come to an end; and that truth and peace, and holiness, may get still more credit and authority; and reign and flourish to the ends of the earth; thro' the abundant grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.

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*A devout Prayer that may be used at any Time.*

O MY God, infinite in goodness and boundless in mercy to all who love and obey thee, grant me grace, I beseech thee, to love thee with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my

strength, and for thy sake to love all men as myself ; give me a charitable opinion of them all, whether friends or enemies ; suffer me not rashly to judge or condemn any person, of what state or condition soever ; and if it be my own lot to be despised and rejected by others, teach me with patience to submit.

Grant that I may never study to please men in any thing, whereby I may be in danger of displeasing thee ; and that it may always be my chief and only desire, to promote thy honor, and to fulfil in all things thy most holy will.

Give me grace, O heavenly Father, to be entirely submissive and contented under all the afflictions, disappointments, and sufferings which it is thy pleasure I should endure, and which thy wisdom shall judge proper and useful to advance me towards thee. And grant that by every tribulation and adversity which may befall me, whether directly from thy hand, or from men, as thy instruments, I may be weaned from the world, and more closely united to thee.

O heavenly Father, I beseech thee, by the merits and death of thy Son, to give me grace to have thee always before my eyes ; and with a holy fear seriously to consider the hour of my death, which is so uncertain ; the shortness of my life, of which, alas ! I have so unprofitably, for trifles, already lost so great a part ; the day of judgment, which is so awful to the good, and terrible to the wicked ; and upon the infinite and eternal punishments which shall then be inflicted upon impenitent sinners.

And, finally, grant, O infinite Bounty ! that I

may never seek or find peace or pleasure in any thing without thyself; and that thy will may be the rule of my conduct, and of all my actions in this world, and thou thyself my eternal bliss and happiness in that which is to come.

II. O most gracious Savior, keep me from presuming on my own sufficiency; from relying on my own actions, and on my own conduct. Grant that I may not trust in any thing, but in thee alone, and in thy all-sufficient merits; that all my hope, and all my confidence may be in them; yet so as never to make me neglect any opportunity of performing that which thy grace hath enabled me to do.

Fill my heart, O blessed Jesus, with a lively sense of thy divine love; and deliver me from all the inclinations of impure and deceitful self-love. Raise my desires, enlighten mine eyes, and touch my soul, in order to give me the true knowledge and sense of thy love, of thy mercies, of thy wisdom, and of thy power: as also of my own nothingness; of my darkness and unfaithfulness; of my folly and wickedness; of my misery, and of my weakness.

O dearest Redeemer, grant I may never lose the memory of thy passion and death, but may have always recourse to thy merits and sufferings, as to an assured refuge, and as a blessed means of reconciliation to my offended God; and that I may look on thy wounds as an effectual remedy to cure all the defilements and corruptions of my sinful nature.

O Prince of Love! fill me so with thy divine love, that for the sake thereof, all toil and tra-

vail, all dangers and difficulties, may be sweet and easy to me ; and that in comparison of thy sacred love, I may look upon all thy creatures, all their comforts, all their joys, and all their recreations, as mean and contemptible ; that if at any time thy infinite wisdom shall think fit to withdraw them from me, I may feel as great cheerfulness in submitting to the want of them, as I have sometimes found reluctantly to be deprived of them. AMEN.



*A Grace before Meat.*

BLESS to us, O Lord, these thy good creatures, which we are now about to receive. Give them strength to nourish us, and us grace to serve thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.



*A Grace after Meat.*

WE acknowledge, O God, our dependence upon thee, and give thee thanks for feeding us at this time, and for all thy other benefits, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

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